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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-201 *18 October 1994*

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'Aziz, Kozyrev Speeches at UN Reported

JN1710224394 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2111 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] United Nations—This evening, Baghdad time, the UN Security Council began an official session attended by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

After Ambassador David Hannay, president of the Security Council, welcomed 'Aziz and Kozyrev at the beginning of the session, Kozyrev delivered the following speech in today's session:

I would like to brief the Council on my feelings regarding my trip to the region and on my talks with the leaders of several states as well as Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the [United Arab] Emirates [UAE]. Moreover, I would like to brief you on the views regarding this trip.

The trip to the Gulf came upon the instructions of President Boris Yeltsin in order to ease tension and return the situation to normal. The Iraqi troop movements created tension, and we expressed a negative position toward these movements. Several states, including Russia, identified them as Iraqi military maneuvers. Iraq was not planning to attack Kuwait. This information was available to many states.

We were concerned over other military movements, including those of Kuwait, which is still suffering from the past. I emphasize the need to return the situation to the diplomatic channels. This is a positive development, and we are holding intensive contacts with the regional states and the Security Council's permanent members, including telephone calls between President Yeltsin and U.S. President Clinton. Positive assessments have been made of my trip to the region.

Furthermore, I briefed my colleagues in the United States, France, and China, as well as the UN secretary general on the objectives of my tour. We explained our position to President Saddam Husayn. We also explained the need to withdraw the Iraqi forces. I notice with satisfaction the positive developments, including the recent Security Council resolution.

The crisis is over, and no one wants to escalate it. The Security Council resolution aims to resort to diplomatic solutions. All this enjoys my full satisfaction. During the Security Council's consultations, hastiness and nervousness were two elements at times, and were a response to the leaders of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. We sought a balance in the Security Council's work.

The Security Council has complex problems with Iraq. It took stringent positions, and we were close to reaching a positive Iraqi decision to withdraw the troops from the southern part and to take measures to resolve the current crisis.

This trip cannot be repeated everyday. However, it was a unique opportunity to talk to the regional leaders, resolve the crisis, and outline a solution to all crises through a comprehensive solution in the Gulf. Here, we notice a positive position; Iraq has officially supported the need to resolve the problem of recognizing Kuwait unconditionally and in accordance with the Security Council resolutions. This document—the joint Iraqi-Russian statement—was widely covered by the Iraqi media. Its contents—the need to recognize Kuwait—are now well known to the Iraqi people.

For the first time, there were stipulations in the document that Iraq should comply with other pertinent Security Council resolutions.

I believe that this was sufficient to travel to Baghdad. I want to stress that all the provisions of the joint statement do not include any conditions. It is a contribution to the future work of the Security Council in order to resolve the long-term problem. Unfortunately, some of my colleagues made hasty assessments and judgments before reading the text of the joint statement or even the clarifications, which we sent to the concerned capitals.

I believe that additional discussions will make the Security Council fully ready for Iraq's acknowledgment of all the requirements of the Security Council, and thus, the blockade will lose its meaning. This was underscored in the joint statement.

Kozyrev read the text of the paragraph in the joint statement which deals with the blockade.

I would like to reiterate, in particular, that the monitoring system is linked with the recognition of Kuwait. In our statement with the Iraqi side, and in my viewpoint, it is very clear.

Kozyrev then read the text of the paragraph in the joint statement that deals with the monitoring system.

This reinforces the Security Council's capability to think of a practical program to make Iraq implement the other resolutions.

I finally believe [words indistinct] the crisis. It is possible to begin the monitoring system within a month. After six months—through Iraq's cooperation—it is possible to take a decision to lift the oil blockade, in accordance with Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. And through Iraq's cooperation with the other provisions the other sanctions on Iraq will be lifted.

We need to propose (?a formula) to encourage the Iraqi leadership and people to comply with the related Security Council resolutions. Resolving crises and conflicts needs broader levels. I feel satisfied because the Council expressed its effectiveness in the recent years, and we have unique experts in this regard.

Sanctions are the strongest non-military methods, but sanctions need patience and wisdom to reach a political and legal solution that is in harmony with the Charter.

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Sanctions, as a whole, need some amendments and developing the (?mechanism) of imposing and lifting sanctions. Sanctions are lifted through encouragements sometimes, and at other times sanctions are lifted in light of many types of reports, fact-finding missions, etc.

We note here there is a lack of organization in the work regarding imposing and lifting sanctions. Sometimes, the Security Council is accused of using double standards, and at other times a certain country makes calls for a unilateral action to lift or impose sanctions. Meanwhile, lifting sanctions is the responsibility of the Security Council only. [passage omitted]

The UN Security Council president then requested Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz to speak. Following is the text of the speech:

Today's meeting of the Security Council has special and great importance. It is our custom to clarify facts, all the facts, before the Council and the world public opinion. What are the basic facts? Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev spoke at this session and gave a clear statement on his visit to Baghdad. The joint statement that followed that historic visit is placed before you.

1. The statement says that Russia called for taking decisive steps in order to prevent the escalation of tension and return the situation to the path of political and diplomatic efforts that will lead, in the final analysis, to achieving firm security and stability [words indistinct] measures imposed on Iraq and to establishing good neighborly relations between Iraq and Kuwait. Yes, Iraq endorses this honest call and urges adherence to it and working to achieve it.

2. The statement also says that Iraq has stressed its readiness to resolve in a positive way the issue of recognizing Kuwait's sovereignty and borders, which were decided in accordance with Security Council Resolution 833. This is our position.

3. The statement also says that discussion was held of some specific measures to build confidence among the region's states—a confidence that will eliminate mutual doubts and establish an atmosphere of confidence among them.

4. The other fact is that the Iraqi forces, over which an uproar was raised, were present on Iraqi territories. After the said uproar was raised, a resolution was issued on 10 October urging that these forces be moved to the rear. They completed their withdrawal on 12 October. On Saturday, 15 October, before the Security Council's Resolution No. 949 was issued, orders were give to withdraw the rest of these forces to their former locations, and they are on their way to that.

5. The second fact is that Iraq has met its obligations in accordance with Section C of Resolution 687, as it was confirmed by reports from the Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency, the last of which is the official report presented to the Council on 10 October.

6. The other fact is that the monitoring system imposed in accordance with Resolution 715 is in operation and the Iraqi authorities have been extending every necessary cooperation to the commission and the agency. This is what we are pledging to carry out now and in the future in light of our commitments stipulated in the provisions of Resolution 687 and Resolution 715.

Mr. President: These are the basic facts of the situation. The Council is called upon to base its debate on these basic, clear, and tangible facts, which are supported by official documentation. The correct method that is in harmony with the essence of the resolutions of the Security Council, with the charter, and with the goal on which the international community is unanimous, is the method which achieves security, peace, stability for all parties in the region, and justice.

The right approach is that the Council should study these facts and work in accordance with the right and fair legal interpretation of its own resolutions in order to achieve justice and secure the legitimate rights of all parties. Of course, this cannot be achieved while the blockade is still imposed on the Iraqi people. Some sides are talking about a reward. I have not come here to ask anyone for a reward, but what I am demanding are the rights of Iraq as stipulated by the UN Security Council resolutions themselves. The Council is called upon to proceed from the essence and texts of its resolutions, to interpret them in a right and fair legal way, and to give each side its rights. Iraq is ready to cooperate with the Council to achieve this objective.

Following this statement, the deputy prime minister replied to the British ambassador, who was the last speaker before the deputy prime minister began his speech:

The statement of the British representative is an example of the illegal implementation of the Council's resolutions, for how can he allow himself to talk against the Iraqi leadership and Iraq at a time when they defy the implementation of the Council's resolutions, the international law, and the sovereignty of others? If they seek to implement the international law in a correct way, then they should clearly and decisively approach these actions and give a clear interpretation of the law.

The U.S. representative then spoke again. After she finished, the deputy prime minister commented, saying: Some of what has been said by the venerable representative of the United States, the venerable representative of the United Kingdom, and Kuwait's representative, indicates an important fact; namely, who really seeks to resolve problems and to achieve security and stability in the region? We have spoken at this session in a logical way, and stressed our desire to resolve all problems in accordance with the Council's resolutions and the logic

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of justice and fairness. We have also spoken about our desire to establish relations of good neighborliness and to adopt confidence-building measures. I am confident that the esteemed Council members and all those who are attending this historic session can draw the correct conclusions regarding Iraq's stand and the stand of those whom I have referred to.

The representative of the United Kingdom, who strongly emphasized the rules of sovereignty, has violated these rules and allowed himself to speak about an internal affair, which in essence, is one of the affairs of the sovereignty of the state of Iraq and the people of Iraq. Despite this, I reiterate what I have said in my statement; namely, that I will not be driven by provocations by some sides at this session, rather , I have spoken in a legal and comprehensive way that guarantees the legitimate rights and interests and achieves security, peace, and stability for all parties

The UN Security Council's session ended at 2045 today Baghdad time.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Husayn, Rabin News Conference on Draft Treaty

JN1710150794 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1307 GMT 17 Oct 94

[Statements by Jordan's King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at a ceremony to initial a draft Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, followed by a news conference at al-Hashimiyah Palace in Amman on 17 October; questions and answers are in English, Arabic, and Hebrew—recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Husayn, in Arabic] Good evening to all of you. I am happy to have this opportunity, and I am happy with what has been achieved on the road that we have chosen, the road to peace, hope, stability, and tranquility for the people. We have made decisive progress in our recent meetings; the israeli prime minister and myself. In addition, we all express thanks, appreciation, and gratitude to our colleagues the negotiators, starting with His Excellency Prime Minister al-Majali, who headed our team at the start of our journey toward peace, and to every member of the Jordanian team, as well as the Israeli team.

Thanks be to God, we reached the point where the peace agreement will be initialed by the prime ministers of Jordan and Israel, and the treaty will be officially signed at a later date so that it can pass through the constitutional stages in both countries.

As for myself, I hope that this will be the gift with which I express my gratitude to all the Jordanians [applause]—the old, the young, men and women, all the members of this beloved family to which I shall be proud to belong as long as I live. I will always remember the profound and noble sentiments this one big and noble family showed me when I returned from my trip after my illness. I have taken it upon myself to work as long as I live for their present and their future, for their dignity and to regain their rights, to give all of them the chance to live as we have always lived with our heads high, which will only bow to God Almighty.

Congratulations. I am part of this people and will always work for them. [applause] I am extremely happy at what has been achieved, with a confidence in the present and future. There is great hope.

[Husayn continues in English] I would like to welcome the prime minister once again. We have worked together with commitment and determination since our meeting in Washington, and, Prime Minister, I express my deep gratitude on behalf of both of us to the teams that carried the negotiations between us as agreed at the very outset to this point in time that hopefully will witness shortly the initialing of the peace treaty between our two countries in preparation for the coming event that will follow when we ratify it with all the annexes and in preparation for this very, very important document going through the constitutional levels in both our countries.

I would like to salute your determination and your untiring efforts, which have enabled us to reach this moment, and I hope and pray that this is something that we leave behind for all the generations to come and also [words indistinct] for them to enjoy what we were denied for so long—peace, human dignity, warmth, the chance to live and to achieve what (?is a right).

I have addressed in a few words my family here in Jordan, and I would like to say to the people of Israel that we are very, very happy to have reached this point and are full of hope and confidence that the future will be a future of peace, that this step will be a very important one in what we have all committed to—a comprehensive peace in this region. But between us, hopefully it is a fresh beginning and a fresh start. We will guard it, and I hope generations beyond us will guard it, enjoy it, and cherish it; and in this very important part of the world for all the followers of the three great monotheistic religions, the children of Abraham, I believe that we are coming together in the right way.

I thank you and I have been proud to be associated with you in these efforts; and I thank all our friends—Jordanians and Israelis alike. Thank you. [applause]

[Rabin, in Hebrew with superimposed Arabic translation] Your Majesty King Husayn, Crown Prince, the Jordanian prime minister, the Israeli foreign minister, representatives of Jordan and Israel here: This is a historic moment. This is the first peace treaty that has been signed since the Madrid conference. At the Madrid conference, the objective was to reach a comprehensive peace with all the neighborly Arab states and with the Palestinians.

As for me, this is a great and special moment in which a draft peace treaty between Jordan and Israel will be

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initialed. Jordan and Israel have a long history with difficult moments and important days. However, I have no doubt that this day constitutes a traffic light and a historic crossroad for both people. Not long ago, we signed in Washington the Washington Declaration, which ended the state of war. Immediately afterward special committees, led by King Husayn, worked day and night to reach the Washington Declaration, not only to end the state of war, but also to build the edifice of peace, friendship, and cooperation.

I would like to express deep appreciation for King Husayn's leadership, the leader of the Jordanian people for a long time. He led the Jordanian people toward progress and development. Also, he showed courage and boldness for the sake of giving momentum to peace in order to reach this moment.

I believe a new period has begun in the region, a period of cooperation along the longest border with Israel. This is a peace of understanding, mutual respect, and great hope for cooperation and development for both people and both states, as a ground for cooperation and stability in the entire region.

I want to thank the two persons who launched the peace process, the heads of the Jordanian and Israeli delegations to the Madrid conference, Prime Minister al-Majali and Ambassador Rubinstein, who began the process together and they now ended it with achieving a peace treaty, which at this stage will be initialed only.

[Rabin continues in English] Your Majesty, Your Highness, the prime minister of Jordan, the foreign minister of Israel, dignitaries of Jordan and Israel, ladies and gentlemen: It is a great historic day. It is the first peace treaty that will be initialed between Jordan and Israel since the convening of the Madrid peace conference. The Madrid peace conference set as its purpose to achieve comprehensive peace between all the Arab neighboring countries and Israel and the Palestinians. And no doubt that for us, for Israel, for the people of Israel, there is a very soft point and warm admiration of the courage of King Husayn, the leader of his country and people during a period of trials, wars, development. And no doubt, the unique courage that is so characteristic of King Husayn in whatever he has done brought him to take a courageous decision to put an end to the war between Jordan and Israel, to help the Washington Declaration, in which we ended the state of belligerency between Jordan and Israel, and to guide the efforts since then to the working of the committees in al-'Aqabah and Elat, in the south of the Lake of the Galilee, in Amman to bring us to build the structure of peace, peace which is based on international legitimate rights of independent sovereign peoples, and above all, peace with dignity, dignity to both sides. We have decided about the major elements that are needed to bring about the signing of the peace treaty, the signing [pauses]... initialing of the peace treaty.

I believe, and for me especially, it is a unique today. Started today as a foggy day, but ended with bright skies. The sun is shining, and I am sure what has been done by you, Your Majesty, by your colleagues on the Jordanian side, and those on the part of Israel (?will serve as) a cornerstone for a new Middle East, in which peace, development, cooperation will replace animosity, hatred, violence, and wars. I believe it is a very important day to both our countries and our peoples. But, I believe also, above all, it's a source of inspiration, an example that peace is attainable. And for that, Your Majesty, I would like to thank you to your courage, vision, and determination. Thank you very much. [applause] [video shows Jordanian Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al- Salam al-Majali and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin initialing the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty]

[United Press International correspondent Jonathan Perziger] Your Majesty and Mr. Prime Minister: Can you tell us what went on in the last 24 hours, in which you were able to solve all the outstanding issues to get this peace agreement together?

[Rabin] Well, I believe that, as you remember, his majesty and I met in the last two months on three occasions. We had private talks that as a result, our teams were guided what to do. In essence, the two of the problems that had to be solved was to establish where should be the international boundary between Jordan and Israel. And I believe that we reached an agreement. It is based on what used to be the international boundary between Jordan and British-mandated Palestine with minor modifications, mutually done, which means that there is no party that lost territory vis-a-vis its legitimate internationally recognized rights. But, we establish the border of peace on the basis of international border with minor modifications, mutually done. No one lost, no one win.

[Husayn, laughing] Everyone won.

[Rabin] Everybody won. On the water issue, we found a solution that is agreed on. We hope that in the future, as a result of bringing peace to this area, major regional projects will be developed that will be added water to the existing water. But, we had to solve the problems of today. We have to solve it on short-term, medium-term, and long-term. And we have found all the solutions to this. I believe that otherwise, we found ways to bridge the limited gaps that remain as a result of the lot of work that was done by the Jordanian and the Israeli teams that were divided to subteams. And really, I more than appreciate all the members of the teams that worked so hard and helped us to mitigate differences.

[MA'ARIV correspondent] I would like to ask Your Majesty: About 16 years ago Israel signed a peace agreement with Egypt. My question, Your Majesty: In what sense the peace that you are signing today is going to be different from the one signed with Egypt, which is being regarded by many Israelis as a cold peace, and would you advise, Your Majesty, President al-Asad to follow your footsteps?

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[Husayn] I certainly hope that peace will come to this region as a whole. We are committed, determined, to see a comprehensive peace in this region. What I'd like to say here is that this is unique. This is a peace between two countries and two peoples. We have suffered for long. We aspire to peace and are committed to peace, and have now achieved it. We are proud of our friends throughout the world, grateful for their support and encouragement, but I believe we did it ourselves. We did it with our teams that work together. We did it essentially between Jordan and Israel. Talks, commitment, determination, and hard work, has been rewarded by this agreement and peace treaty. So I can't speak for others, I can only describe what is happening now in a sense of pride, hope, and optimism, and a sense of relief after all these years hopefully we left our peoples something worthwhile.

[Israeli Television New Channel 2 correspondent] I want to ask you when we are going to see you visiting Jerusalem, and how do you see the solution to the problem of Jerusalem, and maybe the final solution of the Jerusalem problem?

[Husayn] I hope that I will visit Israel sometime soon, that the opportunity will arise before too long, and I owe my friend a visit. The prime minister has come to see us time and again here, and he's given us very much of his time, and care, and attention. So, this will naturally happen before too long. I can't give any dates or time. As far as Jerusalem is concerned, it is important to all of us. I referred to the children of Abraham before, and I hope that we will learn, and we will practice living in tolerance, mutual respect, and I hope that Jerusalem, the holy place will come to symbolize true peace finally, and at long last between the children of Abraham. I hope that all the other problems will be addressed and resolved, and will have all our support and help. They do not affect us directly, except in the sense of, I wish that what has been started in Madrid and beyond, will continue on all the tracks. Thank you very very much indeed.

[Rabin] Allow me, Your Majesty. You will be welcome in Jerusalem whenever you decide, and I am sure that not only the government, the whole people of Israel would love to see you there.

[Husayn] Thank you very much.

[Israeli Television Channel 1 correspondent] Your Majesty, the Prime Minister: Could you tell us some practical details of the final signing of the peace treaty? When will that be; who will be attending the ceremony; and when will the borders open for all the Israelis and all Jordanians to cross?

[Husayn] I think we'll get to have all the details very, very soon, probably a synopsis of what has been agreed and worked out, some time soon and very shortly.

[Correspondent] Maybe next week?

[Husayn] The signing of the treaty officially probably won't take long. Maybe a week or so. There will be a ceremony and then, hopefully.... [pauses] As to who will attend, I can't tell. I [word indistinct] certainly will attend, and with us all the people of Jordan and all the people of Israel.

[WASHINGTON POST correspondent Nora Bustani]. Where will the signing take place, in Amman or Jerusalem, and will it take place right after your parliaments ratify the agreement? Will the signing take place right after your parliaments ratify the agreement?

[Husayn] The way it goes is that we have initialed it legally. I believe the ratification then will be passed to parliament to verify it. So, all these events will occur at some time soon. In any event, I can't tell you exactly where it will be at this stage but probably it is somewhere on the border between our two countries.

[Unidentified correspondent, in Hebrew with superimposed Arabic translation] Prime Minister: When will the final signing of the treaty take place, and will President Clinton attend the signing ceremony, and will it be in Amman or Jerusalem?

[Rabin, in Hebrew with superimposed Arabic translation] I hope it will take place next week, and then the peace treaty will need the approvals of the government and the Knesset. When this is approved, we will apply a timetable to achieve the stages of normalization of relations between the two countries. This means a large agenda including all issues pertaining to normalizing relations between the two countries. Will President Clinton attend the ceremony? It may take place anywhere on the border between Jordan and Israel.

[Unidentified correspondent, in Arabic] A few days ago, we heard that Jordan agreed to the principle of leasing some of its occupied territories. Is that principle acceptable to Jordan, and what will Jordan benefit in return for that?

[Husayn, in Arabic] All details will be revealed to everybody. During our previous talks and meetings, the Israeli prime minister said that they, on the Israeli side, do not covet any inch of Jordanian territory. This is indeed what has been applied. We have obtained our full right. The prime minister mentioned some slight mutual amendments. Other than this, the territory the prime minister mentioned is the territory that has belonged to Jordan since its establishment. It is Jordan's borders with the British-mandated Palestine. God be praised, we have restored our territory. Once again, the good results are for both sides. There is no loser in this deal. Rather, every one won at the beginning of this new stage and the new march on the road to peace.

[Unidentified correspondent, in Arabic] Does Jordan think of exerting efforts to incorporate Iraq into the peace process in the coming stage?

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[Husayn, in Arabic] We are now talking about our affairs and situation, and we will tell you of what happened with us.

[Amman television correspondent Murid Hammad] I think I have one final question, if I may have. This is a question I would like to address to both Your Majesty and to the Israeli prime minister. Now that your vision is somewhat almost true, and the tree of peace that you've planted more than two years ago is bearing fruit—this is the first fruit hopefully—what is your vision for the future, both in relation to the bilateral side of the formula and to the regional side?

[Husayn] What we have said I think that we are committed to whatever we can on the bilateral level to see this as the beginning of life for this region between our two countries. And regarding the region itself, we hope that there will be a comprehensive peace in this area. We all worked for that, and hopefully it will come.

[Rabin] May I answer. I believe that once stability will be established in the region, the fear of wars, violence, terror will be reduced and hopefully will be eliminated. The readiness of major companies all over the world to come to invest in this region will be increased, I believe, to a large scale. I believe that there are resources in the region that once there is peace on the bilateral, hopefully, on much wider scope, the Middle East can be developed to be one of the advanced areas in Asia might be as well. The lack of sense of stability by various countries all over the globe, by major multinational companies, had prevented using the capabilities and the potentialities of the region to invest and to assist the various countries and peoples to develop themselves.

Therefore, by closer cooperation by strengthening stability and security, I believe the potentialities of the region, of Jordan, of Israel, hopefully, other countries that will join peace, I believe we open today a big door to a different situation, environment, atmosphere in this region.

[Husayn] Just a second, we have an important phone call coming up, so please shall we say goodbye to them, (?sir)?

[Rabin] Good bye.

[Husayn] (?Can) we meet everyone of them?

PLO Agrees To Bar Rejectionists From Elections

NC1810125294 Paris AFP in English 1223 GMT 18 Oct 94

[By Mona Salem]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Oct 18 (AFP)—The PLO has agreed in the wake of the Israeli hostage crisis that hardliners opposed to peace be barred from standing in self-rule elections, a Palestinian delegate to talks here said Tuesday [18 October].

The PLO had previously objected to Israeli conditions that opponents of peace, such as the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, be excluded from the election process.

"All candidates must be mandated to continue the talks to reach the final phase of Palestinian autonomy," negotiator Zahirah Kamal told AFP. "The candidates must recognise the peace process."

"Whether Hamas accepts this or not, is its problem," she added.

She spoke before a new session of talks with Israel on staging elections to the authority which will run Palestinian civilian affairs under the autonomy agreement.

Israel suspended the talks on the orders of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin a week ago after Hamas kidnapped an Israeli soldier.

The crisis ended in a failed rescue attempt which left the hostage, an Israeli officer and three Hamas men dead.

Her comments marked a climb-down for the Palestinian delegation which last week slammed the head of the Israeli delegation Dani Rothschild for being "undemocratic" in setting conditions for those who could take part in the elections.

Israel wants to exclude opponents of the peace process, those who call for the destruction of the Jewish state, and those standing on a racist platform.

Rabin warned PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat after the hostage crisis that he could no longer court Hamas, which is vehemently opposed to self-rule launched in the Gaza Strip and Jericho on May 4.

" 'Arafat cannot have in the same time peace with Israel and peace with Hamas," he said.

In another conciliatory gesture, Kamal said the PLO would also agree conditionally to Israel taking part in a committee to supervise the elections.

"We refuse a joint supervision committee with Israel, but we accept international supervision within which the Jewish State could be represented."

Last week the head of the PLO delegation Sa'ib 'Urayqat rejected as "illogical" an Israeli proposal to create a joint committee of three Palestinian judges and three Israelis.

Under the terms of the Declaration of Principles the two sides are to agree on supervision and an international observation for the vote.

The new round of talks was due to start later Tuesday in a Cairo hotel and would focus on the structure of the future council as well as the makeup and mandate of a supervisory committee.

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So far the two sides have failed to set a date for the poll, which has already been delayed from July, and which the Palestinians had been hoping to schedule for early November.

The PLO is insisting Israel should complete its military withdrawal from Palestinian population centres on the West Bank before the elections are held, which Israel has so far refused to discuss.

The talks which began on October 3 are meant to set the seal on limited self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza before the start of negotiations on the final status of the territories due to begin in May 1996.

Islamic Affairs

Various Islamic Figures Condemn Iraqi Moves

NC1810112794 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 14 Oct 94 p 10

[FBIS Translated Text] Twelve Arab Islamic figures have expressed concern over the developments in the Gulf, urging Iraq to solve the problem of missing Kuwaitis and offer reassuring guarantees to Kuwait, and calling on the Arab countries in general and the Gulf states in particular to support efforts aimed at lifting the blockade against Iraq.

The statement, distributed [in Beirut] yesterday, says: "While we hoped the wounds between Iraq and Kuwait would be bandaged, Arab accord and solidarity would be restored, the siege against Iraq would be lifted, and all guarantees to reassure Kuwait and solve the problem of the missing would be provided, the world and we the undersigned were surprised by the movements of the Iraqi troops toward the Kuwaiti border. This raised the fears of Kuwait and the Gulf states and gave the United States a chance to create tension to entrench its intervention in the region's affairs and tighten its noose around Iraq; indeed, it allowed Clinton's administration to score an easy and gratuitous victory.

While we express concern and condemnation of these movements and developments, we appeal to fraternal Iraq to solve the problem of the missing and provide all guarantees to reassure Kuwait in particular and the Gulf states in general. We also appeal to all brothers in the Gulf states and to all Arab countries to join efforts aimed at lifting the siege on fraternal Iraq as soon as possible and restore Arab solidarity."

The statement was signed by Tunisia's Ennahda Movement leader Rached Ghannouchi; Algeria's Ennahda leader Abdallah Djaballah; Lebanon's Islamic Group Secretary General Faysal Mawlawi; Islamic thinkers Muhammad 'Amarah, Muhammad Salim al-'Awwa, and Fahmi Huwaydi; 'Isam al-'Aryan, former deputy for Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt's People's Assembly and secretary of Egypt's Doctors Syndicate; Lebanese Deputy Zuhayr al-'Ubaydi; Former Syrian deputy Zuhayr al-Shawish; Islamic Resistance Movement-Hamas representatives Muhammad Nazzal and Khalid Mash'al; and Palestinian thinker Munir Shafiq.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 14 Oct

NC1810095494

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 14 October issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Police Arrest, Torture Martyr's Relatives, Acquaintances
2. Detained Publisher Denied Hospitalization
3. Labor Party Cadres Arrested, Tortured

POLICE ARREST, TORTURE MARTYR'S RELATIVES, ACQUAINTANCES

A 700-word report by 'Ali al-Qammash and Subhi Buhayri on pages 1 and 7 tells the story of 'Isam al-Jawhari, "the Egyptian hero who was killed in a jihad-like suicide operation in Jerusalem last Sunday." Citing 'Isam's family members and acquaintances, the report says that martyrdom has been his wish for 10 years "until he decided to enter the occupied territories in any way possible."

The report adds that 'Isam traveled to Saudi Arabia in early 1994 to perform the minor pilgrimage and "returned three months later." He went to Saudi Arabia once again "to bring back sums of money due to him." He contacted his family six days before his death to say that he was coming back in a week. But news of his martyrdom was published in the press.

According to the report, the state security forces stormed the area where 'Isam resided and arrested over 500 young men among his friends and relatives and the young people who frequent the al- Tawhid Mosque, which the martyr's father set up under his residence. 'Isam's house was put under guard and his family members were prevented from leaving or contacting anyone outside. 'Isam's brother Usamah and his friend were also arrested and taken to the State Security Detectives headquarters in Shubra al-Khaymah with the other youth, where they were subjected to "barbaric psychological and physical torture, including electric shocks and being lashed and suspended in the air for hours."

DETAINED PUBLISHER DENIED HOSPITALIZATION

An unattributed 100-word report on page 7 says that Ahmad Hasanayn, the 76-year-old owner of the Islamic Publishing and Distribution House, who is being held in the Turah prison, is suffering from deteriorating health.

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The prison authority turned down a request by his lawyer to transfer him to a state hospital, the report claims.

According to the report, Hasanayn was arrested by the State Security Detectives on the charge of "publishing a book explaining the Muslim Brotherhood's position on shura and freedoms." Hasanayn, who had just emerged from sensitive surgery, is being detained in a narrow cell that has no toilet, bed, electricity, or water, the report says.

The report adds that Sayf-al-Islam al-Banna, secretary general of the Lawyers Association, was denied permission to attend Hasanayn's interrogation.

LABOR PARTY CADRES ARRESTED, TORTURED

A 1,000-word report by "AL-SHA'B correspondent in Suez" on page 7 claims that three Labor Party cadres in Suez have been arrested and are being tortured by the security agencies.

The report says that a force of State Security detectives, backed by hundreds of armed central security forces, stormed the homes of some Labor Party cadres in the city of Suez, arrested them, and subjected them to coercion to make them confess to crimes they did not commit. The party members were "falsely" accused of belonging to an illegitimate group and promoting and publishing its ideas, because they issued an "irregular bulletin" for the party youth. The report claims that three State Security officers in Lazughli tortured the detained party members.

The party committee sent a memorandum to the Committee on Defending Democracy and Human Rights, detailing what happened to the party members and demanding an urgent session to discuss the security authorities' excesses. A memorandum has also been sent to Amnesty International to take the necessary measures and register the torture to which the members were subjected. f

Palestinian Affairs

Officials React to Jordan-Israel Peace Treaty

Treaty Seen as 'Natural Outcome'

TA1710173794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority [PA] welcomes the signing of the peace agreement between Jordan and Israel and considers it a natural outcome of the peace process. This development, however, is also viewed with some apprehension. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menashem spoke with Jibril al-Rujub, the head of the Palestinian security service in the West Bank.

[Begin recording] [Al-Rujub] I hope that this agreement will not come at the expense of the Palestinian people and its fate. It is common knowledge that at the previous signing in Washington Israel granted Jordan responsibility for the holy places in Jerusalem as though we did not exist. I hope, therefore, that the Jordanians get the message clearly that we control and are responsible for the territory that includes the holy sites in Jerusalem.

[Ben-Menahem] Yesterday, Jordan appointed Shaykh 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Abidin as mufti of Jerusalem. The PA rushed to appoint Shaykh Akram al-Sabri to the same post.

[Al-Rujub] I suggest that Shaykh 'Abd-al-Qadir decline this appointment. I do not consider it a great honor to accept an appointment from a foreign country.

[Ben-Menahem] Do you propose that he resign from this position?

[Al-Rujub] Of course I suggest this. It is for his own good.

[Ben-Menahem] Will you permit him to work?

[Al-Rujub] In the role of mufti? Not at all.

[Ben-Menahem] A PA delegation returned from Jordan this week after holding negotiations on social and economic issues. The PA has so far failed to sign an agreement with Jordan defining their relations and cooperation in various fields. Relations between King Husayn and 'Arafat are tense, and PA officials assert that only a summit meeting between the two men can clear the atmosphere. [end recording]

Various Officials Welcome Agreement

TA1710184794 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Oct 94

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mr. Ilyas Frayj, who is responsible for the tourism portfolio in the Palestinian Authority [PA], blessed the Jordanian-Israeli agreement and hoped that it will serve as a good omen for achieving a comprehensive and just peace between the Arab nations and Israel. He said that this agreement will undoubtedly have a positive effect on all the negotiating tracks between the Arab parties and Israel. Mr. Frayj added that he hopes that a Jordanian-Israeli-Palestinian economic union will be formed and that joint projects will be established to advance the economic process in the region.

Commenting on the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli agreement, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, who is responsible for planning and international cooperation in the PA, said that peace must be comprehensive and that Jordanian-Israeli peace must be followed by Syrian-Israeli peace and Lebanese-Israeli peace. In response to a question by our correspondent Hasan Abu-Zayid about the agreement's impact on Israeli-Palestinian talks, Dr. Sha'th said he hopes that Israel will be as interested, serious, and persistent with the Palestinians as it was with the

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Jordanians with regard to achieving speedy and important results, because Israeli-Palestinian peace is the core of the Israeli-Arab peace process.

Commenting on the agreement, Faysal al-Husayni told our correspondent Kayid Zahir that the Palestinians have always wished the final agreement to be comprehensive, because unilateral agreements will lead to a cold peace similar to that of the Egyptian-Israeli agreement. Mr. al-Husayni added that the Jordanian-Israeli agreement is part of a peace process aimed at establishing a comprehensive peace among the nations of the region. He said that we as Palestinians believe that Jordan cannot ignore Palestinian rights in some issues, such as water and so forth. [passage omitted]

Fatah Secretary Marwan al-Barghuthi welcomed, in principle, progress achieved on any Arab-Israeli negotiating track. In a statement to our correspondent 'Abd-al-Wahhab Zahdah, he added that the basis for a comprehensive peace remains on the Palestinian track. He demanded the implementation of the second part of the Oslo accord.

Sha'th Comments on Accord

JN1710190694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Nabil Sha'th, PA "minister of planning and international cooperation," by Hasan Abu-Zayid on 17 October; from the "With the Events" program, place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abu-Zayid] What is your comment on the Israeli-Jordanian agreement that was initialed today?

[Sha'th] Of course we realize that the peace process should be comprehensive and that peace between the Palestinians and Israel should be followed by peace between Jordan and Israel, between Syria and Israel, and between Lebanon and Israel. This is part of the peace process. However, we would like to learn about the conditions that both sides have accepted in order to see if water and human rights issues, for example, in which we should have a role, are involved. We will raise this matter seriously during our upcoming negotiations.

[Abu-Zayid] Dr. Nabil Sha'th: In what way can the signing of the agreement between Jordan and Israel affect Israeli-Palestinian negotiations?

[Sha'th] I hope the effect will be positive. In other words, I hope that the Israelis will understand that peace should be sought on the other fronts in the same spirit and seriousness and that Israel will show, along with the Palestinians, the same interest and seriousness that it has shown toward the Jordanians in order to achieve quick, important results, because Palestinian-Israeli peace is the core of the Arab-Israeli peace process.

[Abu-Zayid] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, thank you very much.

[Sha'th] You are welcome.

PFLP Spokesman Criticizes Signing

JN1710204994 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Oct 94

[From the "Panorama" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] A Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] spokesman has said that the signing of the Israeli-Jordanian accord represents a separate solution, contrary to the previous Jordanian Government's statements that it will not sign a separate peace treaty with Israel and that it adheres to the comprehensive solution on all tracks. The PFLP spokesman added: The signing of such a treaty comes before any Israeli withdrawal from the Palestinian and Arab occupied territory and before resolving the basic issues of the Arab-Israeli conflict, particularly the Palestinian people's inalienable and legitimate rights.

Agreement Said 'Expected'

NC1810074794 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 18 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with PA member Furayh Abu-Middayn, in Gaza, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Al-Jundi] Mr. Abu-Middayn, how do the Palestinians view the initialing in Amman yesterday of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty?

[Abu-Middayn] The agreement has been expected for a long time. There were no substantive differences between Jordan and Israel. The problem was the delineation of the border: a small part of Jordanian territory, no more than 380 square kilometers, was occupied in the June 1967 war. An agreement between Jordan and Israel was, therefore, expected. We as Palestinians support this agreement and have no reservations about it. But common projects, such as water and others, or the projects that will be established on the Red Sea, should be coordinated among the three parties: Palestine, Jordan, and Israel. This is the issue about which we will seek clarification from the Jordanian side. But we support the signing of any agreement, whether between Syria and Israel, Lebanon and Israel, or Jordan and Israel. If we take the agreement between Egypt and Israel, which was signed a long time ago, we find that the Egyptian position has always been supportive of the Palestinian position. The peace process is an indivisible whole. Any step here or there, any accomplishment here or there, supports the overall Middle East peace process. Therefore, we, the Palestinians, bless the Jordanian-Israeli agreement and have no reservations about it. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jundi] Mr. Abu-Middayn, has there been a disengagement of forces, if I may call it that, between Jordan and the Palestinians concerning the status of Jerusalem?

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[Abu-Middayn] Jerusalem is under Palestinian, not Jordanian, sovereignty. Let us be frank. Jordan insists that Jerusalem be the capital of the Palestinian state and that the city and all its institutions be under Palestinian sovereignty. This is non-negotiable between Palestine and Jordan, and Jordan fully accepts this. Some little points, however, remain; these concern Islamic endowments in Jerusalem. Jordan is temporarily in charge of endowments and religious courts only in the city of Jerusalem. This is temporary until we reach a final solution. Jordan does not object to Palestine's taking charge of all these things, and we, of course, will not concede them because they are part of the sovereignty. We believe that Jerusalem, from the sovereignty and political viewpoints, concerns the Palestinians only. Religiously, it is for the whole Arab and Islamic world, but in the hands of the Palestinians. This is a matter of principle that by no means can be relinquished.

[Al-Jundi] This means there is harmony between the Jordanian and Palestinian positions concerning Jerusalem.

[Abu-Middayn] There is an attempt at coordination and I hope it will succeed. There are still differences over Islamic endowments, religious courts, and the appointment of a mufti for the city by both sides. This issue must be solved. The harmony is not 100 percent, I can say. [passage omitted]

Tension Between Hamas, Authority Continues

Prisoner Release Demanded

TA1710162794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Several thousand Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] supporters dispersed a short while ago after surrounding Gaza City's central prison and demanding the release of approximately 400 prisoners who are members of the movement.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the demonstrators were led by Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar and the father of slain terrorist Salah Jadallah, who was killed in B'ir Naballah. Dr. al-Zahhar asked the demonstrators not to clash with the Palestinian police forces. Hundreds of Palestinian policemen armed with handguns and clubs were deployed at the site, but no violent confrontations were reported. During the demonstration, al-Zahhar called on Yasir 'Arafat to dismiss the commanders of the Palestinian police led by Nasr Yusuf.

Fatah Urges PA To Hold Dialogue

TA1710175494 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 17 Oct 94 pp 1, 19

[Report by Rashid Hilal]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ramallah—The Fatah Supreme Strategy Committee [FSSC] has announced that it regrets the tragic results of the Israeli soldier's abduction. In a statement issued yesterday, the committee held the Israeli Government totally responsible for the deteriorating security situation and for the dilemma that the peace process is facing. This is something against which Fatah had repeatedly warned.

The statement stressed that the Israeli authorities' failure to release all male and female prisoners, continuation of their practices against the Palestinian people, procrastination in implementing the second part of the Oslo accord, and continued attempts to pressure and restrict the Palestinian Authority [PA] threaten the peace process with collapse and raise doubts about its credibility among Palestinians.

In its statement, the FSSC condemned the military siege imposed on the Palestinian people and their National Authority in Gaza. It called on the Israeli Government to immediately cease all the pressure it is exerting on the PA, which should include the immediate lifting of the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip.

The committee warned the Israeli Government against taking any measures against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and the occupied territories. It also held the Israeli Government responsible for the serious tension resulting from its practices and positions. This is something that threatens the entire peace process with unforeseen grave consequences.

The FSSC appealed to the PA and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to open a direct and deep dialogue in order to organize their relationship so as to ensure the unity of the people, spare them internal strife, and unify their ranks.

The committee called on the National Authority to release the detainees and stop the campaign of detentions. It also called on the Palestinian masses everywhere to reinforce their national unity on the basis of mutual respect as well as respect for law and order.

The statement appealed to all Palestinian political forces to launch a comprehensive national dialogue in a way that would consolidate and enhance national unity.

'Only' 81 Militants Said Left in Jail

NC1810142894 Paris AFP in English 1354 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Oct 18 (AFP)—Palestinian authorities were only holding 81 Hamas militants in Gaza jail arrested over the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier, the city's police chief told AFP Tuesday.

General Ghazi Jabali said 51 were released overnight and 61 the previous day.

But Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas members said 115 activists had been freed in the last two days out of a total of 350 held since last Wednesday [12 October].

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The releases followed demonstrations by thousands of Hamas supporters, protesting a crackdown ordered by PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat after the group kidnapped 19-year-old Israel corporal Nahshon Wachsman.

The demonstrators had also demanded the dismissal of 'Arafat's top police brass.

Also released were six local journalists working for international agencies who had handled a video recording of the Hamas kidnappers.

The authority also set free on Tuesday 11 members of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine detained three weeks ago.

They were held after the group, which opposes autonomy, claimed responsibility for shooting at Israeli troops.

'Extreme Resentment' Expressed at PA

MM1710144694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Oct 94 p3

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, AL-HAYAH— In a statement issued yesterday, the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) accused the Palestinian National Authority [PNA; Palestinian Authority, PA] of helping Israel find the place where the kidnappers of the Israeli soldier were hiding, and it threatened to deal "painful blows" to Israel until it gives in and releases the Palestinian detainees.

The statement, citing a Hamas responsible source, said the movement "expresses its extreme resentment and anger at the disgraceful role played by the autonomous authority and its intelligence organs in serving the enemy authorities and helping them reach the location of the mujahidin."

It added that "Hamas confirms that the autonomous authority and the Zionized members of the Palestinian security command gave the Zionist intelligence and occupation authorities information which led them to the location of our heroic mujahidin."

It condemned "this very low posture taken by the autonomous authority in becoming a cheap servile tool in the hands of the Zionist intelligence and in joining the Zionist trench against our people."

It added that "Hamas holds the authority of (President Yasir) 'Arafat and the heads of the Palestinian security organs responsible for blocking Hamas' fulfillment of its objectives and the objectives of its squads' operations mounted for the release of the heroic detainees. It also holds them responsible for the blood of the martyrs who fell in the heroic Bir Nabala battle...and for plotting against them. It warns those people against going too far in underming our people's just causes, legitimate jihad, and steadfast detainees." It also said that the movement "is confident that our people's judgement of those people will be firm and equal to their suspect role." [passage omitted]

'Abd-Rabbuh on Call for Meeting To Save Peace

JN1610183494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] During its ordinary weekly session under His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, the Council of Ministers of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] urged the Higher Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee to hold an urgent meeting. It also invited the United States and Russia, in their capacity as sponsors of the peace talks, as well as Egypt and Norway. In a telephone conversation with correspondent Fathi al-Barqawi, Culture and Information Minister Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh explains the reasons for the invitations and the issues to be discussed.

[Begin recording] [Al-Barqawi] Brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PNA and culture and information minister: During yesterday's meeting of the PNA's Council of Ministers, you decided to invite the Higher Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee to hold a meeting in the presence of the two sponsors of the talks, as well as the Egyptian brothers and the Norwegian friends. Could you tell us about the reasons for the invitations?

['Abd-Rabbuh] In fact, the current situation is threatening the whole peace process with collapse. Israel's arbitrary measures and its continued collective punishment of the Palestinian people in Gaza Strip, along with steps like the suspension of the negotiations and the threats being leveled by Israeli Government circles, show that the situation may eventually lead to the collapse of the whole peace process. Therefore, a term of reference, namely, the coordination committee, should meet. Certain states that have contributed to reaching the peace accords should also take part in order to stop Israel's continued violations of the bases of the peace process. Otherwise, matters will further deteriorate, and the Israeli Government's policy will be responsible.

[Al-Barqawi] Do you expect any response from Israel and the United States to such an invitation?

['Abd-Rabbuh] I cannot say. At the same time, we cannot continue with such a situation, in which Israel is unilaterally making decisions and taking measures that harm the essence of the peace process and threaten this process, as well as the fate and lives of the Palestinian citizens. Meanwhile, Israel is pursuing its policy, which denies all the existing agreements. The crossings accord has not been implemented; thousands of Palestinians are still in Israeli jails; the expansion of some settlements, as well as settlement activity in Jerusalem and the West Bank, are still going on, etc. All these are time bombs that are even more dangerous than the soldier's incident because they threaten to undermine the bases of the political process. If Israel and the United States do not

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respo..d to such an invitation, then this will mean they are ignoring these dangers, and consequently, it will open all possibilities, including the possibility of a complete collapse of the political process.

[Al-Barqawi] When will the invitations be issued, brother Abu-Bashshar ['Abd-Rabbuh]?

['Abd-Rabbuh] The invitations were issued immediately after the Palestinian Authority's meeting.

[Al-Barqawi] What exactly are the topics that will be raised?

['Abd-Rabbuh] The same topics I have mentioned. There has been a flagrant Israeli violation and measures that Israel has no right to take, such as: suspending the negotiations, the complete closure of the Gaza Strip within the policy of collective punishment, the continuation of the conditions of the detainees and the presence of thousands of our people in jails, and the settlement policy violations. Israel has been doing this to hinder the implementation of the transitional phase agreement, which is supposed to be entirely complete by now. This hindering is intentional and obvious. If we recall the Israeli statements before the soldier's abduction and even several weeks before that, we find that they did not want early elections, that they refused to implement their commitment to withdrawing the Israeli Army from cities, villages, and populated areas, preparatory to spreading Palestinian authority over the remainder of the Palestinian areas in the West Bank.

All of these were preliminary motives. We cannot understand the Israeli delays, stalling, and the current escalation measures unless they are considered within a political framework; namely, refusal to implement the transitional phase agreement.

[Al-Barqawi] The United States, which is one of the two cosponsors of the peace process, through Secretary of State Christopher, held the Palestinian Authority responsible for the Israeli soldier's abduction. Have you held contacts since then, especially after the facts proved to be to the contrary?

['Abd-Rabbuh] In fact, being more royal than the king is a traditional U.S. policy. This policy has been clear in the recent past. This U.S. stand is not watched by our people alone but by the other Arab peoples, who are preparing to reach genuine peace agreements with Israel. If this is the real U.S. attitude, then how can we reach a firm basis for real peace in the region?

Israel has retreated from its accusations but the United States has neither retreated nor explained what it really wants. It is only repeating some of the Israeli accusations. I believe by such attitude the United States will not be trusted in its role as an honest partner or a supervisor of the peace process implementation. It should be neutral and at equal distance from both sides.

[Al-Barqawi] Therefore, we are facing two sides and not one side. Thank you, Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of culture and information in the Palestinian National Authority.

['Abd-Rabbuh] Thank you. [end recording]

Poll Shows Majority Oppose Anti-Israel Acts

JN1710154194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] An opinion poll conducted by the Palestinian Research Center in Nabulus has shown that six out of 10 Palestinians oppose armed operations against Israel in the self-rule areas.

The center, which released the results yesterday, Sunday, said that about 60 percent of the respondents said they oppose carrying out anti-Israeli operations in these areas. Twenty-eight percent said they support such operations, while 12 percent gave no opinion. The question was restricted to the operations carried out in these areas, where the PLO pledged to deter such operations.

Seventy-five percent said they would take part in the self-rule council elections while 16 percent said they would not take part. Eight percent did not give an opinion.

The poll was conducted in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the period between 29 September and 1 October. It included a representative sample of 1,251 persons. The poll was conducted before the Israeli soldier Nahshon Wachsman was kidnapped and killed near Jerusalem Friday night, along with an Israeli officer and three of his kidnappers, and before Sunday's bloody operation in the holy city.

Security Command Orders Weapons Registration

JN1610173894 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Oct 94

[Announcement by the National Security Forces and Police Command in the Jericho area]

[FBIS Translated Text] The command of the National Security Forces and Police in the Jericho area urges all brother citizens who have unlicensed weapons to go to the police station to register these weapons from 17-25 October. This is in order to reorganize possession of weapons and issue official licenses out of our eagerness to maintain the safety and security of citizens. It is worth noting that any violations will be subject to legal prosecution.

Hamas Spokesman on Election, 'Arafat, Attacks

NC1410222294 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 10 Oct 94 p 8

[Interview with Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas, by 'Abd-al-Halim Qandil in Amman; date not given]

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[FBIS Translated Text] [Qandil] What is left of your rejection of the Oslo agreement a year after its conclusion?

[Ghawshah] We have waged a struggle against the agreements of Oslo, Washington, Cairo, and the self-rule. We used the weapon of jihad against the occupation, and our operations increased by 30 percent compared with the year before the Oslo agreement. We were also engaged in social public work and Islamic political action while other opponents depended on politics, media, and little uprising-related work.

The result, a year after Oslo agreement, is that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] managed to reconcile jihad and active public work. One can notice that Hamas has not confronted the Palestinian Authority [PA] or the Palestinian police. We could have used force to resist, but Hamas, with its considerate leadership, wanted to give a chance to a sector of the Palestinian people that thought the self-rule agreement was the beginning for establishing a state and that wagered on economic boom after the implementation of the agreement. Hamas did not want people to say that it wasted a chance for an Israeli withdrawal from some areas and deprived Palestinians of the joy of establishing a state. Now, the people have come to realize that the self-rule agreement emphasized association with the Zionist occupation and that Israel is the term of reference for the PA. The economic claims also collapsed and frustration hit even some of 'Arafat's men, including some of those who engineered the Oslo agreement.

[Qandil] Like whom?

[Ghawshah] Like Mahmud 'Abbas and Ahmad Quray', and like the Madrid group, notably Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and Hanan 'Ashrawi. These and others disagreed with 'Arafat for many and different reasons, most important of which is the difficulty of dealing with a dictatorial mentality like that of 'Arafat's.

[Qandil] But you are dealing with 'Arafat, the dictator, as you describe him. 'Imad al-Faluji [a Hamas activist] applied for a license to publish a newspaper, Hamas has entered the Jericho municipal council, and 'Arafat visited the Islamic University in Gaza and met with some Hamas leaders. What do you want? Do you want a piece of the self-rule cake?

[Ghawshah] As regards municipalities, it is our policy to participate in all municipal and trade union elections; we participated before and after the uprising; we participated under the occupation authority, and we are prepared to participate under the PA. We had been engaged in a dialogue with Fatah for seven months to form preparatory committees to arrange for and manage the upcoming municipal elections. Our participation in Jericho municipal council fell in that context. But 'Arafat is now practically undermining the agreement. Without holding elections, he formed a municipal council in Gaza under the chairmanship of 'Awn al-Shawwa, a municipal council in Nabulus under Bassam al-Shak'ah, and a municipal council in Hebron under Mustafa al-Natshah. 'Arafat took these big cities for himself and so far evaded our agreement regarding elections.

Concerning the license for Brother Imad al-Faluji, the request was personal. And 'Arafat's visit to the Islamic University cannot be described as a political dialogue but as an academic dialogue. The university trustees asked 'Arafat that they be represented in the Palestinian Higher Education Council and that the university's share of the aid to universities in the West Bank and Gaza be increased to 24 percent. As regards political dialogue, we refuse to join the PA, and we refuse to participate in the elections over which 'Arafat and Rabin are currently holding negotiations.

[Qandil] What about your refusal to participate in the elections? Is it final and are you not afraid of going isolated?

[Ghawshah] Our stand is final. We will never legitimize an agreement that we reject. We will never be isolated, because Hamas is a jihad movement which is involved in the society through a vast network of cultural, health, and educational services. Rejecting the self-rule does not mean that we will be isolated from the Palestinian people. The Palestinian people have discovered the grave concessions that 'Arafat had made without accomplishing anything in exchange, a national sovereignty, for example.

[Qandil] How far have your contacts and negotiations with 'Arafat gone?

[Ghawshah] So far there is no direct or organized dialogue. However, negotiations were held through mediators before and after the Oslo agreement. In January 1993, we signed an agreement with Fatah in Khartoum under the auspices of Shaykh Hasan al-Turani. The agreement was signed for Hamas by Musa Marzuq, head of the Political Bureau; and for Fatah by Major General Nasr Yusuf, commander of 'Arafat's police corps. 'Arafat and Salim al-Za'nun refused to sign the agreement because we refused to stipulate in it that the PLO is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Prior to the official signing ceremony of the Oslo agreement in Washington, 'Arafat asked former Yemeni President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to mediate. However, President Muhammad showed understanding of our rejectionist stand. After the signing ceremony, mediation efforts were terminated for months. However, a prominent Islamic figure from Jordan mediated. The mediator tried to take from us a verbal undertaking to stop all the jihad operations in the self-rule areas. But we explained to him that if we did so we would be implementing the self-rule conditions. During the past 'Id al-Adha, Fatah Central Committee member 'Abbas Zaki proposed to give us four of the 24 seats in the self-rule authority. The Hamas Movement turned down the offer after 24 hours.

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Other mediation efforts were carried out by Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al- Banna, a leader of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, but to no avail.

'Arafat tried to infiltrate Hamas. He contacted six prominent Islamic figures inside the territories. They all but Shaykh Sa'id Bilal refused to cooperate with 'Arafat. Hamas explained that Bilal is not linked to Hamas. Later, 'Arafat made another attempt. He contacted Necmettin Erbakan, leader of Turkish Welfare Party. He also met with a delegation representing the Islamic Movement in Palestine occupied before 1967 led by Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish and Ra'id Salah. He asked them to use their good offices with Hamas. All his attempts had failed. 'Arafat then tried another method, campaigns of arrests and attempts to disarm us.

[Qandil] Does 'Arafat's resorting to direct pressures affect your armed operations, particularly since there are other pressures from Rabin?

[Ghawshah] Pressures do not affect us. We have pledged to God and the people to proceed down the road. Hamas believes that resisting the Zionist occupation is legitimate although 'Arafat and Rabin describe resistance as terrorism. We bet that we will be able to expose 'Arafat and shake Rabin's stand before the upcoming Israeli elections. The latest poll shows that Likud leader Benyamin Netanyahu is ahead of Rabin. Furthermore, our jihad operations add to our popular asset in confronting 'Arafat, whose authority has become an occupation tool in south Palestine similar to that of General Lahd republic in south Lebanon.

[Qandil] Are you, then, seeking to overthrow 'Arafat?

[Ghawshah] Our proclaimed objective is to overthrow Palestinian self-rule and pave the way for the liberation of Palestine. I ask: Is it permissible to leave an obstacle in the way of this popular, nationalist, Islamic goal? The answer is no, even if the obstacle is 'Arafat himself. 'Arafat has placed himself in a predicament no Palestinian leader has found himself in since 1917. We wish to avoid Palestinian infighting, but what can we do when 'Arafat openly rushes along the road of treachery against us? We are confident that the Palestinian people will lean towards the struggler group and only a minority will stay with 'Arafat. We do not think that even the Palestinian police, mostly members of the Palestine Liberation Army (brought up in a nationalist, religious tradition), will stand by 'Arafat. Hence it is 'Arafat himself who will determine the form and general mode of the next battle against Hamas.

[Qandil] The mode of that battle is clear. You say that you will not participate in the elections. Therefore only armed conflict remains and the danger of civil strife.

[Ghawshah] It is only Hamas' position that has so far prevented an armed explosion. As to the Palestinian police who entered the Gaza Strip, they have begun to arrest and persecute Hamas mujahidin and other elements from Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestinian, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and clan chiefs. We have been exercising self-restraint. We formerly hoped that the Fatah Central Committee would act as a check on 'Arafat's power but regrettably its members are not carrying out this task. The consequence is that 'Arafat has almost passed the danger line. We will not permit our mujahidin to be hunted down or disarmed. Our reaction will be justifiable from the patriotic and Islamic angles. Let him who signed the agreements of humiliation and shame in Oslo, Washington, and Cairo bear the full consequences.

[Qandil] The 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam battalions frequently issue statements that are more hardline that the official statements made by Hamas. What is happening here?

[Ghawshah] Any observer of Hamas will soon notice that it has a flexible structure and mode of action. This has resulted from the circumstances that surround us and from new developments. The political and military wings are independent of each other. Each one has freedom of planning and execution. This is why we sometimes issue statements that are independent of our military wing, the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam battalions.

[Qandil] Is this a sign of flexibility or fragmentation? Have contradictions started to surface between the proletariat represented by the fighters and the bourgeoisie represented by the politicians, along lines similar to what happened within Fatah after 1974?

[Ghawshah] No, this will not happen to us. Our flexible structure is drawn from the traditions of the Muslim Brotherhood to which we belong. We have other traditions that combine doctrinal depth with educational traditions. We combine political flexibility with strict adherence to firm principles. It is not an easy formula but it is possible to maintain. Another point is this: Our doctrinal upbringing makes us unenthusiastic to assume positions of power which are ephemeral. The movement's actual leaders are its martyrs. The movement has clean hands everywhere and it has almost no bureaucracy whatever. Hamas regards itself as the vanguard of the Palestinian people's long struggle. If Rabin is saying that 100 years of conflict have ended, we tell him that another 100 years of conflict have just begun.

Habash, Hawatimah Announce Intention To Unify PFLP, DFLP

MM1410124694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Oct 94 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—Dr. George Habash, leader of the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine; PFLP], and Nayif Hawatimah, leader of the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine; DFLP],

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announced yesterday in a public rally their willingness to immediately begin to unify administrative, financial, informational, and military organs in order to open the door to the formation of a new Palestinian axis to confront the Oslo-Cairo accord and the capitulationist settlement. They stressed the continuation of military and armed action against Israel. Hawatimah told participants that the dilemma which the negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli track have reached is the natural result of that accord.

He attacked Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and his policy.

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Algeria

GIA Threatens More Attacks on 'Enemies of God'

MM1710140794 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Oct 94 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] Algiers, London, AL-HAYAH—Sources close to the Algerian prime minister's office have stated that a partial cabinet reshuffle could be announced in Algeria soon and that Mokdad Sifis' changes will probably cover the ministries of justice, the interior, solidarity, liaison (information), housing, religious affairs, youth and sports, and supply.

The sources told AL-HAYAH that former Interior Minister Cherif Rahmani could replace incumbent [Interior] Minister Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif.

The reports about an expected cabinet reshuffle coincide with an escalation of violence. AL-HAYAH has learned from reliable sources that the Algerian Army is preparing to launch large-scale combing operations to pave the way for measures expected to be announced within the next few days. [passage omitted]

In London, AL-HAYAH has received a statement from the Armed Islamic Group [GIA] claiming responsibility for the explosions which occurred in the capital last week. It threatened to carry out other "harder" operations. In its statement, the GIA said that it had made a point of ensuring that its "instructions are carried out and applied in the field, because words are meaningless if not followed by firm implementation and certain and permanent application." It added that "the only way to deal with the renegade enemy is the way of the sword, and death is the sentence for anyone who changes his religion."

The statement, signed by the "Information and Shari'ah Discipline Committee," said that "the bombings carried out by the GIA bombing and sabotage units were merely an introduction to harder and more severe operations against the enemies of God and Islam. What we did was a warning to anyone who contemplates violating the GIA's firm instructions. The proof that they were only warning messages is the number of casualties and the fact that there were no fatalities among those targeted, but that does not mean that we will be lenient next time."

The statement, date 14 October, added: "The killing of the French Christians, despite the tight security around them, the many explosions which occurred within short intervals in the capital Algiers, and the military operations carried out by the GIA in broad daylight... provide irrefutable evidence of the GIA's strength." It further said that "it is noweasy to reach the enemy's headquarters... such as the ministries and major institutions."

In conclusion the statement said that "the GIA came to uphold the words of God and his righteous Shari'ah. God willing, we will not stop the jihad until God's religion prevails or we perish."

Dialogue Opponents To Form 'National Grouping'

MM1810095894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Oct 94 p1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Algiers, London, AL-HAYAH—Reliable sources have told AL-HAYAH that a group of Algerian political figures have initiated contacts among themselves with the aim of forming a "national grouping" for the salvation of Algeria that would pave the way for the formation of a new political party. The party will be led by figures opposed to the policy of dialogue with the Islamic trend. Foremost among them are Redha Malek, former prime minister; Leila Aslaoui, former national unity minister and former spokeswoman for Mokdad Sifi's government; and Selim Saadi, former interior minister.

According to the same sources, the group has started drafting a statement justifying its inclination to form an "Algerian salvation" party.

The move comes after President Zeroual's failure to persuade the three fronts (the Islamic Salvation Front, the Socialist Forces Front, and the National Liberation Front) to join in the dialogue with the presidency.

Commenting on the so-called "failure of the dialogue," political observers in Algeria emphasize that President Zeroual is a man of strong will and he understands the sensitive situation. They do not rule out the possibility that in his speech marking the 40th anniversary of the Algerian revolution, he will announce important decisions including a call for presidential and legislative elections. [passage omitted]

'Militants' Kill Former Minister's Husband

NC1710163194 Paris AFP in English 1624 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, Oct 17 (AFP)—The husband of a former government spokeswoman and minister was stabbed to death Monday [17 October] in his office in central Algiers, authorities here announced.

Mohamed Redha Aslaoui, a dentist, was attacked by four Moslem militants and died in hospital, police said.

His wife, Leila Aslaoui, an attorney, resigned as spokeswoman and as secretary of state for family affairs last month to protest against the release of jailed militants from the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

Security Forces Kill 'Terrorists'

LD1710191394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A security services' statement released today states that during last Thursday [13 October] and Friday, eight terrorists were eliminated.

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The statement also notes that on Saturday, the security services killed two more terrorists in a house in Sidi M'Hamed Ben Aouda municipality, in Relizane, and recovered two pistols. The security forces also killed four terrorists in a house in Djelfa.

The security services also announced that Mohamed Redha Aslaoui, a dental surgeon, was assassinated this evening in his surgery in the capital. The same sources affirmed that four armed terrorists entered the victim's surgery in Bab Azoun, in Algiers, and inflicted fatal stab wounds to the victim. [passage omitted]

Papers To Strike To Protest Antijournalist Violence

LD1710193994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The treacherous assassination of radio journalist Tayeb Bouterfif has aroused wide condemnation among media circles. While condemning such a vile act, the publishers of five independent newspapers have decided to cease publication, beginning Wednesday, until 22 October.

The newspapers in question are: AL KHABAR, EL WATAN, LE MATIN, LIBERTE, and LE SOIR d'ALGERIE.

In a joint statement, the publishers of the five newspapers point out that the call remains open to the other national newspapers to join this three-day general strike. The signatories of the statement appeal to the people and democratic forces to realize the dangers facing Algerian journalists and all those who are targeted by fascism and religious extremism.

Egypt

Mubarak Phones Saudi King Fahd, Syria's al-Asad

NC1410161394 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Oct 94

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a telephone conversation with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, this afternoon. The two leaders exchanged views on the latest developments in the Gulf, which resulted from Iraq's mobilization of troops on the Kuwaiti border, and the Middle East peace process.

President Mubarak also telephoned Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad for a conversation on the latest developments of the peace process in light of the President's meetings today with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Mubarak Congratulates Rabin on Peace Accord

NC1710214394 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak this evening telephoned Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to congratulate him on initialing the draft Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

Al-Asad To Arrive in Cairo for Talks With Mubarak

NC1810074994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2205 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Oct (MENA)—MENA has learned that President Husni Mubarak will hold important talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, who will arrive in Cairo tomorrow, Tuesday, on a visit to Egypt lasting several days.

The news agency has also learned that Mubarak's talks with al-Asad will concentrate on giving momentum to the negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track in light of the extensive contacts the political leadership in Egypt has been holding with the various sides and the developments that took place recently during U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region.

The talks between the two presidents will also touch on developments in the other Arab-Israeli peace tracks of the talks and the Jordanian-Israeli agreement that was initialed today.

Musa, Italian Foreign Minister Hold News Conference

NC1610155994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Martino held a news conference today following their official talks, which lasted two hours.

'Amr Musa said: President Husni Mubarak received the Italian foreign minister and then we held talks for two hours, focusing on bilateral relations, the situation in the Mediterranean region, the Bosnian problem, and the Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis. The talks also dealt with the peace process and cooperation between the Mediterranean countries, in addition to international issues of common interest in the light of the ongoing debate at the United Nations to restructure the UN.

The Italian foreign minister said that the new Italian Government is paying special attention to strengthening its ties with Egypt. He added that the two countries are playing an important role in the Mediterranean region. He said that his visit was useful and that important talks were held with President Mubarak, 'Amr Musa, and Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. He went on to say that Egypt and Italy have

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identical views on the Middle East situation, cooperation between the Mediterranean countries, relations between these countries and the EU, and the peace process. He stressed the importance of continuing political cooperation between the two countries in order to promote stability in the region. He said: We agreed to continue consultations and cooperation between Egypt and Italy. He regretted the attack on international writer Najib Mahfuz and said he hopes Mahfuz will recover soon.

On his meeting with President Mubarak and Italy's stand on the Security Council resolution on the Iraqi troops massing on Kuwait's borders, he said: Regarding the Gulf, Italy believes that the preconditions for normalizing relations with Iraq lie in Iraq's recognition of the borders with Kuwait in a convincing way; that means the removal of any [words indistinct] Kuwait's sovereignty. The whole situation will then change and Iraq's isolation will end. He added that he exchanged views on this issue with President Mubarak and agreement was reached in assessing the situation.

On the Russian initiative on the Gulf crisis, the Italian foreign minister said that this initiative is proceeding in the right direction to solve the problem. He stressed the importance of credibility in Iraq's behavior, that is, recognition of Kuwait's legitimacy and sovereignty and taking action on that basis. He reaffirmed the need to recognize the legitimate existence of Kuwait. He added that Italy supports any initiative to solve this problem and that any solution must be based on Iraq's recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty and independence.

On the Bosnian problem, he said: We have done all that we have been asked to do to bolster the peace process in Bosnia. But we have not taken part in preparing the peace plan. I felt during my tour of the region that there is acceptance of the Western peace plan, that the peace opportunities now appear to be good, and that the concerned parties could accept this plan with some pressure.

Replying to a question on the peace process in the Middle East, 'Amr Musa said that he still believes that the peace process is making good progress. He added that with regard to the Palestinian- Israeli track, he is working to achieve [words indistinct] since there is no reason that the elections committee should not meet. He said: Accusations were leveled against President 'Arafat and the Palestinian Authority and these accusations were proved to be false. Egypt hopes that the Palestinian elections committee will meet soon.

Regarding the Syrian track, he said that there is progress, and the general atmosphere is better, adding that the Syrian and Israeli sides have effectively pledged to work together to achieve progress soon. He added: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's recent tour was very useful. As for the Jordanian track, we all know that they are on the verge on reaching an agreement very soon. Regarding the Lebanese track, Egypt hopes that this track will be activated soon so that the process will move toward a comprehensive settlement.

Regarding the Security Council resolution on Iraq, 'Amr Musa said that the Italian foreign minister has explained his stand and Egypt also has explained its stand, and the two countries' views are identical.

The Italian foreign minister concluded the news conference by answering a question on cooperation between the Mediterranean countries. He said that Italy underlines the importance of strengthening cooperation between these countries. He added that Egypt and Italy have underlined the importance of not ignoring the problems in the region, and this is the first step toward strengthening cooperation and dialogue. He said that the first meeting in Alexandria was successful. The second meeting will be held in France, and Italy is looking forward to it.

Musa: Ministers Meeting To Review Gulf Crisis

NC1710181094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has emphasized that Egypt's role was not marginalized in the latest crisis between Iraq and Kuwait. He stressed that a number of countries, notably Kuwait, were in constant touch with Egypt from the beginning of the crisis and held contacts with Egypt on the highest level. In a statement today, he said no one can marginalize the Egyptian role and that Egypt rejects this.

Musa pointed out that the meeting of the Damascus Declaration countries in Cairo tomorrow will be devoted to discussing the situation in the Gulf region in light of the recent developments and what must be done in the future. He noted that this is an emergency meeting to discuss the new developments in the Gulf, the resulting impact, and the measures to confront them. He said that a number of the Damascus Declaration countries foreign ministers will arrive in Cairo tomorrow, Tuesday, and that a preliminary meeting will be held after their arrival.

Musa said that no one can deny Kuwait the right to take the measures it deems appropriate to protect its borders and entity, noting that there are Arab dimensions that must always be respected, hence the importance of the meeting on Wednesday. He said that on the sidelines of the meeting, he and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' will discuss the situation regarding the peace negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track.

Foreign Minister Musa Discusses U.S. Relations

NC1710205794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 17 Oct 9

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has affirmed that Egyptian-U.S. relations go beyond the framework of bilateral relations

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between two countries to the stage where they are playing an effective role in establishing peace in the Middle East region and setting up the new world order.

He said that peace and stability in the Middle East are a great goal and noble objective, but a great deal remains for us to do. The U.S. role in the region is a tangible and much needed role. It is a role that is based on effective and equal participation in finding a just solution based on the land-for-peace principle, respect for human rights, and equal commitment from all parties.

The foreign minister made these remarks at a speech he delivered this evening at the American University of Cairo during celebrations of its 75th anniversary.

Foreign Minister Musa added that a new and more comprehensive definition of peace is being created which confirms the importance of security and development. The objectives of development can only be realized if they are established in a balanced way; and security cannot be effective or stable if it is established in a partial or biased manner.

'Amr Musa said that with respect to the security of the region, it is very important to remove weapons of mass destruction from the region, including nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons.

'Amr Musa added that this will be an ambitious step that will not only achieve the objective of establishing a nuclear-free region in the Middle East, but will also save the region from the dangers that might crop up as a result of the absence of security and stability.

He said that realizing this goal will reflect the success of international efforts to bolster a security program that can be applied in the Middle East and to guarantee that the agreement banning the spread of nuclear weapons is comprehensive. Thus, there will be no exceptions or preferential treatment for any party in the region, which would be something Egypt cannot accept.

'Amr Musa said that setting up an arms-free Middle East is the focal point for realizing a just and comprehensive settlement in the region. The U.S. role derives its importance from this objective.

In his speech at the American University, 'Amr Musa reviewed Egyptian-American relations since the beginning of the century. He pointed out that the establishment of the American University in Egypt in 1919 occurred when U.S. President Wilson had declared his principled stand on the right to self-determination at a time when Egypt was aspiring for independence. His principles and declaration affected the course of Egyptian struggle.

The foreign minister pointed out that the problems which clouded U.S.-Egyptian relations after the Egyptian revolution were the result of the continuing Arab-Israeli conflict and the cold war between the United States and the Soviet Union.

'Amr Musa spoke about Egyptian-U.S. relations after the 1973 war. He noted the role the two countries played in resolving the Arab- Israeli conflict after benefiting from the new realities that were established by that war and the new current it created in the Middle East.

He said that during the mid-seventies, the two countries realized the need to develop constructive relations and entrench the bond of understanding between them, as well as their joint commitment to peace in the Middle East. This was the major turning point in the history of Egyptian-U.S. relations and is still the firm basis on which we have been building these relations for the past 20 years.

'Amr Musa warned against misinterpreting the relationship between the two countries as one between a donor nation and a recipient. In this regard, he noted U.S. aid to Egypt and Egypt's appreciation of this aid. He also pointed out Egypt's role after the peace process. He said that had it not been for Egypt, the Middle East would not be standing on the threshold of peace. It would not have been possible to protect the strategic considerations in the Gulf region had it not been for Egypt's principled stand. Egypt will continue to be the country that plays the pivotal role in the Middle East region.

Minister Says Nuclear Reactor To Be Installed

NC1710132994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Oct (MENA)—Engineer Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, has announced that electricity prices for industrial companies have been reduced and that no price hikes in electricity have occurred since July 1992 under President Husni Mubarak's directives.

At a meeting of the ministers of industry, petroleum, and war production, with members of the National Democratic Party Industrial Committee, Abazah said the reduction of electricity prices for industrial companies costs 240 million pounds borne by eight electricity distribution companies.

He added that Egypt will introduce nuclear energy by installing a 25 mw nuclear reactor to conduct studies into the expansion of nuclear energy use with help from Argentina. He noted that attempts to introduce nuclear energy in 1989, which was scheduled to come into effect with the installation of a 900 mw plant in Sidi Kurayr, stopped after the Chernobyl incident. [passage omitted]

Soares: Portugal To Back Cairo in Talks With EU

NC1610073794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Oct (MENA)—Portuguese President Mario Soares has affirmed that his country will back Egypt in its negotiations with the

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European Union [EU] in view of Portugal's excellent relations with Egypt on all political, economic, and cultural levels.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM today, Soares said that his talks with President Husni Mubarak emphasized the need to consolidate ties in the various spheres.

Touching on the future of Arab-Israeli peace talks, the Portuguese president expressed the hope that Arab states and Israel will reach peace agreements and that all the problems will be solved through dialogue so that cordial and fraternal ties can prevail in the region.

The Portuguese president expressed his pleasure that his country succeeded in joining the EU agreement in spite of the economic difficulties it encountered as a result of the growing competition among the EU states.

Soares said that legislative elections will be held in Portugal next year, noting that there is strong competition among the democratic parties and institutions.

Commenting on arrangements to turn Macaw over to the Chinese administration by the end of 1999, the Portuguese president pointed out that an agreement signed by the two countries provides for the transfer of authority in a cordial and peaceful manner that guarantees the rights of Portuguese nationals in the region.

Police Conscript Shot To Death in Upper Egypt

NC1510150294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Minya, 15 Oct (MENA)—Unidentified assailants opened fire at a police car in the City of Mallawi, in the Upper Egyptian governorate of al-Minya, killing conscript Shihatah 'Abd-al-Salam. A police force engaged the assailants, but they fled to nearby sugarcane plantations. Leading security officials arrived at the scene of the incident. Policemen are exerting efforts to search for the assailants. The prosecution office has been notified to begin an investigation.

Writer Mahfuz Wounded in Assassination Attempt

Medical Situation 'Has Improved'

NC1510115994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1135 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—Medical reports affirm that the health condition of famous writer Najib Mahfuz has improved. According to the report, he is under treatment in the intensive care unit in the Police Hospital and his condition is reassuring. It is worth noting that the noted writer was attacked yesterday evening by an unidentified man who stabbed him with a sharp tool in front of his home on al-Nil Street in al-'Ajuzah and was taken to the Police Hospital.

Attackers Confess

NC1710131894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1106 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Oct (MENA)—A senior security source has said that the perpetrators of the failed assassination attempt against the prominent writer Najib Mahfuz have admitted that they had planned for the act by placing a time bomb under the table where Mahfuz and his friends used to meet every Friday.

The security source told AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I today that when questioned after their arrest, the two assailants said "they intended to have the honor of killing the secular Najib Mahfuz and the gang of infidels whom he calls al-Harafish [title of one of Mahfuz's novels]. They meet at a casino on the Nile every Friday. The plan was to place a time bomb under their table."

The security source added that one of the terrorists said in his confession that he proposed to go the al-Harafish meeting pretending to be of the writer's fans and plant a bomb under the table but he changed his mind for fear he might be discovered. The terrorist added: Then I went to his home wearing Gulf attire, carrying a bouquet with the intention of killing him as soon as he emerged and then entering the flat to kill his wife and two daughters.

The security source explained how the perpetrators were arrested only a few hours after the attack. He said: When the incident happened our sources inside what is called al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [the Islamic Group] Organization informed us that a cell belonging to the group led by terrorist Muhammad Basim Khalil planned and carried out the attack.

Authorities Ban Rally

NC1710185794 Paris AFP in English 1625 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Oct 17 (AFP)—Egyptian authorities Monday banned a demonstration which writers and other artists planned to hold Tuesday [18 October] in protest at an attack on the Nobel prize-winning novelist Najib Mahfuz.

"The police refused to authorize the demonstration under the emergency law banning protests and public gatherings in the street," one of the organisers said, requesting anonymity.

"The police also fear that terrorist elements could infiltrate the march and harm the protesters," he said, adding that the police found out about the march through press reports.

"It's a pity because we were expecting thousands of people to join the march," the source added.

The march was to start at the Cairo Atelier, a popular cultural meeting place in central Cairo, and cross the river Nile to Mahfuz's home.

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Mahfuz, 82, was stabbed in the neck Friday by a suspected Moslem militant. He is recovering in hospital.

Police said they killed the alleged mastermind of the attack in a raid in northern Cairo Sunday, and arrested the suspected attacker and six accomplices.

In 1988, Mahfuz became the only Arab to win the Nobel prize for literature.

Moslem militants launched a violent campaign in March 1992 aimed at toppling the secularist government of President Husni Mubarak and replacing it with a strict Islamic state. More than 450 people have died in the unrest.

Gas Pipeline to Gaza, Jericho Planned

NC1710143794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, Minister of Petroleum Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi announced that Egypt and a German company have agreed to lay an Egyptian natural gas line to Gaza and Jericho. He noted that the agreement has nothing to do with supplying gas to Israel.

Replying to questions from members of the National Democratic Party Industry and Energy Committee, he said the Paris Agreement stipulates that Gaza and Jericho have the right to obtain gas from Egypt, Israel, and Jordan.

Cairo Radio Views Jordanian-Israeli Agreement

NC1710193094 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1510 GMT 17 Oct 94

[Report by Suzan Shahin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordan's and Israel's initialing of a draft peace treaty today comes within the framework of the ongoing peace process in the Middle East and is aimed at putting an end to a long period of hostility, ruptured relations, and wars between the two countries for the past 46 years. The initialing took place in the presence of King Husayn of Jordan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin following lengthy talks in Amman over the past two days. This step adds a new achievement to the peace process which Egypt and Israel initiated when they signed the peace treaty in 1979, followed by Palestine, which signed a peace treaty with Israel last year. Jordan is bracing to sign a final and comprehensive peace with Israel after the positive step that both the Jordanian and Israeli sides took today. It is hoped that the peace efforts being made on the Syrian-Israeli track and the Lebanese track will continue on the path to agreement and accord so that a comprehensive peace may prevail in the Middle East. The Middle East has suffered for many years from the ordeals of wars and destruction, which caused the devastation of the region's economy and the martyrdom of thousands of its sons.

King Husayn and Prime Minister Rabin are scheduled to announce later the official date for the signing of the peace agreement between their countries. Reports by sources close to the two sides indicate that they will sign the peace treaty in the middle of November. Jordan and Israel favor holding celebrations of this historic event in the Middle East and want to invite U.S. President Bill Clinton to attend. It should be recalled that President Clinton had earlier announced his readiness to visit the region once a Jordanian-Israeli peace agreement is signed.

Jordan and Israel initialed the draft peace agreement today after lengthy talks. Rabin's visit to Jordan is the third in two weeks and the fourth since 25 July, when the two parties declared the end of the state of war between their countries. Under the draft agreement initialed today, Jordan and Israel will seek to solve differences over water and borders. According to this agreement, Israel has agreed to return most of the territories it captured from Jordan during the 1948 war except for certain areas where there are Israeli settlements or plantations. Regarding the water problem, the two sides agreed to establish new projects and dams on the al-Yarmuk River to increase the volume of water flowing into Jordan. They also agreed to ask the World Bank to contribute to other water projects. Sources on both sides said that there still are pending issues which will be discussed before the final signing of the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel. However, these sources stressed that the main problems have been resolved and only secondary issues remain unsolved.

Saddam Faulted for Not Understanding World Norms

NC1510115894 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 9 Oct 94 p 1

[Article by Jalal Duwaydar: "Who Will Pay the Price of Saddam's New Crime?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It seems that old habits die hard. The commander of the Mother of Defeats has not learned the bitter lesson, whose victims were the Iraqis and all Arab people after his unsuccessful aggression on the State of Kuwait and the Gulf region.

He is once again resorting to threats and blackmail out of his belief that it is possible to overpower the will of the international community. No one is responsible for what he has done to his country.

What is happening now is nothing more than one of his mad impulses that stem from shortsightedness and idiocy. The dreadful results of such an attack will be borne by the fraternal Iraqi people and the whole Arab nation.

Saddam Husayn will be making a mistake if he goes through with his adventure, which will have negative consequences for him. He is attempting to get out of the state of desperation that has gripped him as a result of

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the deteriorating conditions in his country and his feeling that dangers are threatening and shaking the regime he is ruling tyrannically and murderously. This desperation is also based on the sense of danger regarding the crimes he committed and the fear of what will befall him from his own people if he loses power. He now thinks that fanning the flames of war once again could help him emerge from the crisis he has created for himself.

The failure of Tariq 'Aziz, Saddam Husayn's companion and pupil in deception, misguidance, and ignorance to convince the Security Council to lift sanctions has provoked Saddam Husayn and prompted him to play with fire. This is the same mistake he made during the Gulf War in 1991, when destroyers and aircraft carriers moved to the Gulf region and the Red Sea to deter any new aggression attempt. The current international moves are based on the point of view that Saddam Husayn cares only about his own interests and alleged leadership and that he believes he will get away with his crime this time around.

Threats and rallying troops on the borders with Kuwait and the Gulf countries will not solve Saddam's problem and will never help him get out of his crisis. It will surely aggravate the situation inside Iraq.

He does not want to understand that the only means for ending his suffering and the suffering of the Iraqi people is to reconcile with the international community, accept its resolutions, and recognize the borders of Kuwait, the Muslim Arab country that was the victim of his aggression and crime.

Saddam Husayn's real crime is that he does not want to understand that there are international laws and principles that reject this crazy behavior and that nobody will allow him to get away with his crime.

Commentary Criticizes Russia's Role in Gulf

NC1610084494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR expresses astonishment at Russia's attempt to act as a dove of peace in the crisis that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn recently created in the Gulf. It notes that Moscow is doing this while taking a hateful, racist position against the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and leading those who demand that the arms embargo imposed on that people not be lifted so that they cannot protect themselves against the Serbs, who receive arms from everywhere, especially from Russia itself.

The paper says in an editorial that will appear tomorrow, Sunday, that Moscow found in the recent Iraqi crisis an opportunity to show that it can play a prominent role in solving this crisis in its capacity as the second world superpower and at the same time boost the special relations that the former Soviet Union established with Iraq.

The paper says the world community can give the Baghdad ruler a new and last chance to test his real intentions by his readiness to recognize Kuwait so that the people of Iraq can be spared another unjustified ordeal.

Writer Criticizes Iran's 'Inconsistency' Toward UAE

NC1610092494 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 10 Oct 94 p 1

[Article by Chief Editor Jalal Duwaydar: "The Iranian Inconsistency"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For some time now we have been accustomed to hearing Tehran say something and the exact opposite at the same time.

If anything, the inconsistency of Iranian officials' remarks, and there are many, exposes the widening scale of conflicts and currents governing political conduct at the local and foreign levels. These things certainly shake confidence in and dictate caution about dealing with the ruling "mulla" regime in Iran.

Moreover, the aggressive aptitude, the arrogance, and the desire to control and command are some of the factors that impel the international community, the Gulf states, and the Middle East countries to question the intentions and designs of the Iranian rulers. They claim to be bound by the forgiving Islamic canons, although their actions and conduct, particularly where Arab and Islamic states are concerned, conflict and even run counter to the soul and principles of our great creed.

Egypt has repeatedly declared in a civilized and practical manner its endeavor to establish good, normal relations with all world states based on mutual respect and confidence and on noninterference in internal affairs.

These things have become the essentials of Egyptian policy during President Husni Mubarak's rule. They have helped Egypt assume a prominent status at the regional and global levels and have made the world eager to respect its stances and provide it with all possible assistance, particularly in the economic field.

In applying these principles and norms, Egypt does not discriminate between East and West, although its ties with Arab and Muslim states are distinctive because of the ethnic, religious, and cultural affiliation.

By this logic, Egypt has always rejected the hostile statements and the attempts to interfere in its internal affairs by the ruling "clique" in Tehran at a time when the climate was favorable for building normal ties between the Egypt of al-Azhar, the minaret of Islam, and Shiite Iran; ties that serve unity among Muslims.

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The inconsistency of the Iranian stances toward Egypt is best illustrated by the statements made every now and then by Iranian officials. The latest of these statements was that made by Consultative Council [Majles] Speaker Nateq-Nuri on the absence of obstacles that hinder the resumption of diplomatic ties between Egypt and Tehran. Only a few days before this statement was made, we read statements by Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who declared that his country will not establish relations with Egypt, America, and Israel. This official made the declaration as though he was talking to himself. He failed to take into consideration that Egypt is not interested in establishing ties with a state with such a level of thinking, conduct, and "lack of political decorum."

All these statements by Nateq-Nuri and Hashemi-Rafsanjani are only a living example of the conflicting, inconsistent, and unstable Iranian policy.

Such statements about Egypt assume a different form when it comes to the United Arab Emirates [UAE], a fraternal state and Iran's neighbor. Iran's "mullas" have shown no respect for neighborliness. Using the UAE's concern to preserve fraternity among Muslims and its failure to expect trickery from the big state in the Gulf region, they seized the three Arab islands of Tunb al-Sughra, Tunb al-Kubra, and Abu Musa.

In the context of Iranian inconsistency, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, a major mulla in the ruling regime, said in his Friday sermon 10 days ago that his country is willing to hold negotiations with the UAE on the dispute involving the three islands.

At a meeting in Cairo recently, the Arab League Ministerial Council declared its rejection of the Iranian measures taken on the three islands, demanding that they be returned to the UAE. The Gulf Cooperation Council also adopted several resolutions supporting the UAE rights and stressing the need to return the three islands.

The Iranian official's remarks about a peaceful solution to the dispute followed world news media reports carried a few days before about Iran changing the demographic structure of the Arab island of Abu Musa. Other reports noted the threatening tone of some Iranian newspapers on the subject.

We commend the courage the UAE and its leadership have demonstrated in facing these threats, its determination to preserve its rights to the islands, and its endeavor to find a peaceful solution to the problem within the framework of Islamic and international principles and legitimacy.

As Arabs, we reject this (barbaric) conduct on Iran's part. We know how to protect our rights. However, we hope reason and logic will return to Iran one day. We hope Iranian actions will be consistent with the sound Islamic principles that are built on fraternity, solidarity, justice, and the rejection of hostility.

Writer Suggests Conspiracy Between Saddam, U.S.

NC1610175494 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 12 Oct 94 p 9

[From the "A Mere Opinion" column by Salah Muntasir: "Was It a Conspiracy?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] What is the truth behind this vague tragicomedy we experienced this week?

All of a sudden, Saddam Husayn emerges brandishing his sword and threatening the whole world that he will not shut up if the Security Council does not respond to him and decide on 10 October to decrease sanctions imposed on Iraq. Suddenly on 10 October Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations announces that the Iraqi regime had noticed that the Security Council was angry about the movement of Iraqi troops south near the border with Kuwait. He said that so the Security Council would not get upset and lose patience with the Iraqi regime, Iraq had decided to withdraw its troops, which was the reason for this anger.

Between the surprise threats and the surprise withdrawal, U.S. forces flooded into the Gulf region: aircraft carriers, destroyers, and troop carriers. All these moves cost a great deal of money, the totals of which are written on bills that will be sent for Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to foot. Did this lie behind what Saddam did?

This result arouses suspicions once again regarding the possibility of a conspiratorial relationship between Saddam and the Americans. There will be those who will ask: Who will benefit from all that has happened, other than the United States? Who else has made military deals? Who other than the United States has cashed the check for all its moves? Whose presence in the region is taken for granted and accepted, other than the United States?

Another question raised by all this is: Is it possible for Saddam Husayn to have done what he did without being given the green light to start the crisis?

The third question is: Why could it not be the United States who arranged all of this and suggested it to him, particularly since President Clinton stood up in public and announced that he accepted the challenge and would send his troops to the region quickly? It seems that the United States is the one who frightened Saddam Husayn and made him recoil into the den from which he stuck his head.

The fourth question is: Does this not confirm what was previously said when Saddam invaded Kuwait? Was it not said then that this invasion was staged by the United States with Saddam Husayn as the protagonist and Bush as producer?

The fifth question is: Does what happened not mean that Saddam's remaining in power benefit most the chairman of the board of the world administration who sits in the

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White House? Is it possible that the United States is unable to eliminate Saddam Husayn after all that he has done, that it is unable to get rid of him as it did the ruler of Haiti? It so happens that the ruler of Haiti declared that he was stepping down from power on the same day that Saddam declared he was withdrawing his troops. Thus, Clinton scored two grand victories in one day, one in the Gulf and the other in the Caribbean.

There will be a sixth, seventh, and scores more questions. So long as what is happening is unclear, explaining it away as a conspiracy will be the easiest thing to do.

Kuwait Criticized for Dependence on Non-Arabs

NC1710143994 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 14 Oct 94 p 1

[Article by Chief Editor Jalal Duwaydar: "Welcome to the Arab United States and to the Arab United Kingdom"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Naturally, I followed with astonishment reports by international media that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd attended the emergency meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], which was held in Kuwait to discuss the Iraqi military buildup!

I asked myself: Have the United States and the United Kingdom become members of the GCC without our knowing or hearing about it? Have the two countries changed their identities by joining the Gulf or Arab countries, although they have not yet changed their names to become the Arab United States or the Arab United Kingdom?

Every Arab felt greatly distressed at the deliberate absence of an Arab role from the unfolding tragic events in the Gulf region following the tension created by the Iraqi buildup on the Kuwaiti border.

We have not heard that Kuwait or the concerned Gulf states have seriously asked the Arab countries or the Arab League to try to end the crisis and prevent it from becoming worse.

Although the Arab world sympathizes with Kuwait and rejects the threat of aggression against it, it is stunned by this negative position toward Arab participation, although the crisis is inter- Arab.

Surely, many questions are now being raised in the Arab arena about this strange matter—excluding the Arab role and relying totally on foreign intervention.

Perhaps the striking thing here is that the following fact has been intentionally forgotten: Without the positive Arab presence and participation in the Gulf crisis in 1990, Kuwait would not have been liberated, and the forces of international legitimacy would not have succeeded in beating off the Iraqi aggression.

No one can ignore the crystal-clear fact that Kuwait will remain part of the Arab world and that it will continue to exist in the region at present and in the future. This stresses the need to give priority to finding a lasting Arab solution to its problem and crisis, within an Arab framework, no matter how much effort and suffering this may take.

It is necessary for us here to assert that obtaining foreign protection or intervention any time is neither conceivable nor guaranteed. This does not mean that such intervention is unacceptable, but it must be done in the framework of both Arab legitimacy and international legitimacy.

It is noteworthy that since the new Gulf crisis erupted, international and Gulf media focussed on American and British moves without referring, from near or far, to any Arab role, although the issue is Arab and the disaster of a war would hit, first of all, the Arab countries.

Even the Damascus Declaration, which was the product of many meetings and contacts after the end of the Gulf crisis in 1991, has become a thing of the past, which bears up an old statement by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa that the declaration has died. What I am saying is not a sort of sensationalism, but a fact revealed by the failure so far to invite the states of this declaration to a meeting to discuss the situation, even if only for the purpose of throwing dust in the eyes!

What is now happening on the Gulf and Arab stage—which is blamed on Saddam's madness and recklessness, may God punish him—indicates that there is no interest in any Arab contribution to solving the crisis, and that all attention is now turned toward the foreign forces out of conviction that they alone can ensure protection and security!

Our pan-Arab commitment must prompt us to emphasize that this policy is wrong. The problem of security and stability in the Gulf cannot be solved by excluding the Arab factor, which is the genuine base that can be relied upon to get out of the crisis.

It should be understood that unless the Arabs make moves to confront the serious challenges threatening their existence and entity in the short and long run, what happened [in the Gulf] will be repeated and repeated so that the foreign forces can reap billions of dollars and much influence.

'Schism' in World Alliance Against Iraq Examined

NC1810082894 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Oct 94 pp 1, 7

[Report by Mahmud Bakri: "The First American Failure at the United Nations"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] After four years of absolute American hegemony in the Security Council and the

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United Nations, the U.S. Administration failed to force on the organization a new resolution that calls for a ban on Iraqi troops in southern Iraq. The American failure followed France's objections and Britain's reservations about the U.S. move. Meanwhile, Russia and China strongly opposed all the hostile measures Washington adopted in the fabricated crisis targeted at Iraq.

In an attempt to play down the American failure, Madeleine Albright, the U.S. representative at the United Nations, claimed that consultations are continuing with the Security Council members to find ways to guarantee that Saddam Husayn will not threaten his neighbors or the United Nations. In statements yesterday, Albright said the United States demands that Iraq return its troops to the positions they were in before the crisis. Iraq has already done that in response to the request of China, Russia, and France.

The U.S. troops massed on the borders with Iraq started large-scale maneuvers yesterday as part of a new U.S. escalation that seeks to launch aggression against Iraq under the pretext that it is threatening the security and safety of the Emirate of Kuwait. This coincided with a visit to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia by U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry. The U.S. Administration continued to mass hundreds of thousands of troops in a step described as provocative, expressive of U.S. arrogance, and a criminal act that seeks to destroy what remains of the Iraqi power. All this is happening although Iraq has not committed a crime in the first place to be subjected to aggression. The Iraqi troops have not crossed the national borders. Nor did they commit any act that jeopardizes the Emirate of Kuwait. Moreover, Iraq immediately withdrew the troops that were engaged in training exercises in response to calls from friends. World television networks showed videos of the Iraqi troops and equipment as they were leaving the southern Iraqi region and moving away from the borders with the Kuwaiti Emirate.

The arbitrary American management of the crisis and the unjustified escalation—described by the supreme guide of the Islamic revolution in Iran, 'Ali Khamene'i, as a demonstration of global arrogance which has no right to interfere in the region—created a sharp schism in the world coalition. The schism is the first of its kind since the war to destroy Iraq was waged by the allied armies of 30 countries. France sharply criticized the U.S. Administration and washed its hands of the U.S. policy in the Gulf. French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe announced that his country rejects the U.S. proposal to set up an exclusion zone in south Iraq and demanded that the pressures imposed on Iraq be eased so long as the Iraqi troops withdrawal from the south has been verified.

Washington had put forward a suggestion to impose a ban on heavy arms and on the Iraqi troops within 200 kilometers of the Kuwaiti borders.

Moreover, French Defense Minister Francois Leotard remarked that the U.S. military buildup in the Gulf is directly connected with domestic policies. This is a clear reference to the difficulties U.S. President Bill Clinton and his administration are encountering at the political and economic levels. Difficulties that the U.S. President believes require a military campaign against Iraq that might regain his collapsing popularity.

The rulers of the Kuwaiti Emirate had launched a fervent campaign to prepare the climate—through their exposed lies—for an all-out offensive against Iraq. [passage omitted]

It is noticeable that some cheap pens in Egypt as well have called for destroying the Iraqi power. This stand ultimately benefits Zionists and the nation's enemies.

Observers noted with interest the remarkable development in the official Egyptian stand. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stressed the need to resolve the Gulf crisis within the Arab League. This confirms Egypt's rejection of attempts to internationalize the issue as well as of the American troop presence in the Gulf. It is obvious that there are differences between Egypt and the Gulf states. Egypt has ignored a call for a meeting of the Damascus Declaration signatories. Meanwhile, the Gulf states opted to hold a meeting with the U.S. and British foreign secretaries in Kuwait last Wednesday to look into the measures that should be taken against Iraq. The Egyptian position has dissatisfied different American circles. [passage omitted]

Attempts To Activate Arab Role in Gulf Praised

NC1810101494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR hails the invitation Egypt extended to the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration countries—Egypt, Syria, and the six Gulf Cooperation Council states—to hold a meeting in Cairo today, to discuss the latest developments of the Iraq-Gulf crisis.

In an editorial today, the paper says: It was surprising that the Arab world should let a handful of Western countries take the initiative of moving right away as soon as the Iraqi forces began moving south toward the Kuwaiti border. It is as though we learned nothing from the previous Gulf war, in which the Western alliance played the primary role—a role for which a heavy price was paid, depleting immense Arab resources.

The paper says Egypt has repeatedly tried to activate the Arab role since the Damascus Declaration was signed. Had this objective been achieved, it adds, the necessary Arab plans would have been drafted and made ready for implementation once the first signs of any new sudden move by the Iraqi regime appeared.

The paper hopes today's meeting of the Damascus Declaration states will rectify the Arab course and the Arab role in the region's crises.

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Writer Says Saddam 'Solving' U.S. Economic Problems

NC1810104794 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 13 Oct 94 p 4

[From the "Weekend" column by Muhammad Abu-al-Hadid: "Saddam Solves America's Problems"]

[FBIS Translated Text] No one can claim that he knew what went on in Saddam Husayn's mind when he moved his troops south toward Kuwait's borders. Did he move them to reinvade Kuwait, to exert pressure in order to obtain some gain, or to merely test intentions?

It was clear some several weeks ago that Saddam Husayn was relying on the possibility of getting a resolution lifting or reducing the sanctions imposed on him during the periodic review of these sanctions that the Security Council conducts every six months in light of the report it receives on the extent of Iraq's compliance with the UN resolutions.

Iraqi diplomacy became active and Tariq 'Aziz travelled to New York. There was an evident Iraqi emphasis on drawing to its side three of the permanent Security Council members, namely Russia, France, and China. But the U.S. stand on this Iraqi attempt was clear and it was followed by an international and even an Arab stand.

When news of secret Iraqi contacts with Israel aimed at opening an important door for softening the U.S. stand on Iraq were reported, the United States issued decisive orders to Israel to stop all such contacts and not to open this file at all now.

When news of Arab contacts to achieve an Arab reconciliation with Iraq were reported, the United States frowned. All the Arab parties denied that such contacts existed or that they had even thought of them and they washed their hands of this issue.

Thus, when Saddam Husayn moved his troops, the timing appeared to be a strange one. Many asked what the man wanted from this move and what could he possibly get from such tactics.

But the quickening reactions raised more questions and even changed the way they were being asked.

The U.S. response to Saddam's moves was ten times quicker than its action in the Haiti invasion operation. Thousands of U.S. troops and aircraft crossed thousands of miles to arrive—within few hours—in Kuwait, even before the United States officially confirmed the threat posed by the Iraqi moves. They continued to flow in, even when they ascertained that Saddam had withdrawn his forces. The dispatch of few thousand U.S. troops to Haiti, which lies only dozens of miles from the U.S. coast, took several days.

The dangers might differ and Saddam's past actions probably imposed the need for quick action. But in the end, everything has a price, as far as the United States is concerned.

The price is heavy and not only in dollars. We are the ones who pay it in full and at all times.

As soon as it moved its troops, the United States demanded $2 billion from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait as the price for just moving them. If we divide this figure with the number of troops and equipment, it might become clear to us that the price the United States got for merely waking up a single American soldier from his sleep in his base in the United States to get ready to move to the Gulf equals the annual income of a middle class individual in any Arab country.

This might explain part of the U.S. reluctance to topple Saddam Husayn. The man is playing a vital role in solving the U.S. economy's problems and in diverting any Arab funds surplus to the United States. He "solves" U.S. problems when necessary and places it at all times in the position of one who rushes to save the Arabs whenever they are threatened, except when this threat is an Israeli one.

Libya

JANA: U.S. Does Not Want Iraqi Problem Solved

LD1710184494 Tripoli JANA in English 1818 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, Al-Timour [October] 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—America has renewed its threats today to launch an attack against Iraq despite the withdrawal of Iraqi troops.

This threat is a further confirmation that America does not want the problem solved. The evidence suggests that America goes on in implementing its aggressive strategies and plans against the Arab homeland by sending more military troops to the area to impose its domination and for extortion, particularly as the threat is issued without regard to the Iraqi announcement of the readiness to acknowledge Kuwaiti borders. This proves the continued American manipulation for the so-called Security Council which had issued recently a resolution forced by America itself demanding Iraq to move its forces from within the Iraqi territories.

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Kuwait

French Foreign Minister Juppe Concludes Visit

Holds News Conference

LD1710172694 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1512 GMT 17 Oct 94

[News conference by French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe with unidentified correspondents; place not given—live; Juppe remarks in French and English; monitored in progress]

[Correspondent] Paris has been at the center of some Iraqi maneuverings. Every time an Iraqi leader has wanted to go anywhere, he has gone via Paris. Do you not think that this encourages the Iraqi Government to procrastinate even more on the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions?

[Juppe] Have you counted, dear sir, the number of times Tariq 'Aziz has gone to New York in comparison with the number of times he has been to Paris? I have not, nonetheless, said that there is a center—what did you call it?—of manipulations or maneuverings in New York. I believe that this propaganda, which consists in groundless accusations against France, is unacceptable. What could annoy people is the fact that France takes orders from nobody. However, its position is clear and I have just reaffirmed it. That is it. Now, the last question:

[Correspondent, in French] Can France accept that the United States makes a military decision outside the framework of the United Nations?

[Juppe] I have already replied to this question by saying that the Security Council should be involved when the use of force is hypothesized.

[Correspondent, in English] If the Iraqi parliament, which will meet in a few hours, agrees to recognize Kuwait's border, how would this change the situation diplomatically and militarily in regard to the sanctions?

[Juppe, in English] If the Iraqi authorities recognize, very clearly and without condition or restriction, Kuwait's international border, that should be a very important fact and I think that the international community and the Security Council should take into account such a new event.

[Correspondent, in English] In which terms?

[Juppe, in English] We will discuss that in the Security Council when the time comes.

[Correspondent, in English] Mr. Minister: If the sanctions are lifted, will France sell arms to Saddam Husayn? I do not mean Iraq—[I mean] to Saddam Husayn.

[Juppe, in English] We never sell arms to a person. Excuse me, to stress this point: I hope that all the countries which are able to sell arms will have the same, how do you say, retenue, in English...

[Interpreter, interrupting] Reserve, reservation.

[Juppe, in English] ...restraint in this region because I think the security of the oil region demands such a restraint.

[Correspondent] We notice that there are differences between the statements made by Mr. Juppe and the statements made by Defense Minister Leotard regarding the recent crisis. Does this mean that there is a difference of opinion within the government about this recent crisis since the defense minister said that there should not be any strikes against Iraq before the Security Council has even taken a stand?

[Juppe] It is France's stand. I am very surprised to see this taste that some people have for possible contradictions or differences in the expression of the French stand. If I wanted to play this game, I could compare certain statements made by the U.S. State Department and the Pentagon, but I would not waste my time doing this. France has one stand and it is the one expressed by the head of government and it is the one that I have reaffirmed here. That is it. I think we are going to end here with, perhaps, a question from French television. The last question:.

[Correspondent, in French] Do you consider, after all, like Mr. Leotard, that Iraq has not so far violated any Security Council resolutions in the events of the last few days?

[Juppe] There is the letter and the spirit. It is obvious that in the letter, nothing prohibited took place, but the spirit counts far more than the letter, in theory. It was evidently an unacceptable provocation, which was clearly condemned by Security Council Resolution 949. Therefore, on this very point, the debate is closed. Iraq must now comply with what has been prescribed to it by the Security Council, and this is France's stand. That is it. I thank you for your presence and for your interest.

[Kuwaiti Foreign Minister al-Sabah] Thank you, brothers. You have just listened to his excellency the minister. I would like to stress that all these questions, which may have aroused doubts about France's stand, all these doubts have been regrettably made up, and they are unfounded. Moreover, I would like to stress that France took part in the liberation of Kuwait and has taken part now in the defense of Kuwait and it will always stand by Kuwait in the defense of right. This is what I wanted to clarify.

[Juppe] Thank you.

Says France's Stance 'Crystal Clear'

BR1810114694 Paris LE FIGARO in French 18 Oct 94 p 4

[Report by Patrick de Saint-Exupery: "Kuwait: Juppe Opts for Peace"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait City—Almost one week after the visit by Warren Christopher and Douglas Hurd, [French Foreign Minister] Alain Juppe tried to set the record straight in Kuwait City yesterday. Replying to a question from a Kuwaiti journalist, the foreign minister described the "propaganda which has been used and which consists of questioning France's intentions" as "unacceptable." Denying that Paris is at the "center of certain Iraqi maneuvers," Alain Juppe asked: "Have you counted the number of times Tariq 'Aziz has visited New York rather than Paris?"

The foreign minister thinks that France's position is crystal clear: "If we look at the letter of the UN resolutions, there was nothing to prevent the Iraqis from deploying their troops (near Kuwait—LE FIGARO editor's note). However, with regard to the spirit of the resolution, it is an unacceptable provocation."

Moreover, it was in response to this "provocation," Alain Juppe stressed, that Paris was "co-author of resolution 949, adopted at the United Nations on Saturday evening [15 October], demanding the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces."

Preferring "to look in the direction of peace rather than escalation," Alain Juppe implicitly contradicted the U.S. interpretation of this resolution. It is certainly "binding," but, he added, "if the Iraqi troops do not withdraw, it is for the Security Council to decide what must be done." The day after the adoption of resolution 949, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said he had "all the necessary authority to take actions under the UN mandate" against Saddam Husayn.

As for the problem of the recognition of Kuwait and its borders by Iraq (Resolution 833), Alain Juppe said that "France cannot be satisfied with vague promises or declarations of intent." "We have always demanded that Iraq strictly implement the Security Council resolutions."

Finally, questioned on [Defense Minister] Francois Leotard's statements and the disagreements within the French Government, Alain Juppe said he was "surprised at the interest shown in possible differences of assessment." "If I wished to have some fun," he added, "I could highlight the different statements made by the Pentagon and the State Department."

Leaves After Brief Visit

LD1710201294 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe left Kuwait today after a brief visit of a few hours, during which he held talks with the first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir. [passage omitted]

Two French Frigates Arrive To Join Allied Forces

LD1710185494 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Two French frigates, Georges Lebos and Commandant Bory, arrived in the al-Shuwaykh port today to join the allied forces already present in the area in confronting the Iraqi threats against the State of Kuwait. Enson Daudelet, the commanding officer of the Georges Lebos, declared that his vessel would join the vessels of the allied countries to deter any Iraqi threats against Kuwait. Enson said that his frigate was carrying 240 soldiers armed with light weapons, as well as antisubmarine weapons and Exocet missiles on board the vessel. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Receives Message From Kozyrev

LD1810135094 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received a verbal message from Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

The message was conveyed by Petr Stegniya, ambassador of the Russian Federation to Kuwait. An authoritative source told KUNA that the message was related to bilateral relations, issues of common interest, and developments prevailing in the region. Russia also stressed it would continue its efforts for strengthening the UN resolutions concerning the Iraqi aggression against the State of Kuwait.

Prime Minister Thanks U.S., British Troops

LD1710185794 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At 0600 GMT this morning, Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, paid an inspection visit to the frontline positions of the Kuwaiti armed forces and those of the fraternal and friendly forces stationed on the country's northern border. His Highness was accompanied on this visit by a number of ministers, deputy commander of the National Guard, the adviser of His Highness the heir apparent and prime minister's office, high-ranking civil and military officials, chairman of the KUNA board of directors, and the acting chairman of the Kuwait Journalists' Association.

Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir, Staff Major General Ali Muhammad al-Mu'min, the army chief of General Staff, and a number of high-ranking commanders and officers were at His Highness's reception upon his arrival at the advanced military positions in the north of the country. [passage omitted]

His Highness appealed to the members of the armed forces to intensify the preparations and exercises and to continue to be watchful and alert in defense of our dear homeland.

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His Highness the heir apparent and prime minister delivered a speech before the members of the Kuwaiti armed forces in which he said:

In the name of God, thanks be to God, and prayers and peace be upon God's messenger. [passage omitted]

My brothers, men of the armed forces. Oh, you valiant heroes. You who have vowed to defend your country and protect this good land against the Iraqi aggression. I wish I had been among you before today, but my engagements in appointments and important meetings prevented me from being with you before this date. But I tell you that my brothers, members of the government, the high-ranking officials, and I are happy to carry out this visit to meet you all and see for ourselves the measures and preparations taken to repulse the Iraqi aggression. [passage omitted]

On this occasion, I would like to talk to you in a comprehensive way in connection with the reason for this military readiness. The world was surprised on 6 October by the Iraqi forces' movement toward the south. These forces took the first steps and readiness measures for penetrating our border.

After we were assured of the intentions of the head of the ruling regime in Baghdad, we realized the magnitude of the responsibilities and did not waste time. We immediately contacted the fraternal and friendly countries and informed them of the head of the Iraqi regime's intentions. These intentions were apparent in the massing of the military divisions equipped to attack our Kuwaiti territory.

And God willing, we have received from the leaders of the brotherly and friendly countries condemnation and rejection of the massing of Iraqi troops on the Kuwaiti border and their rejection of the threats. They have also expressed readiness to participate in defending our dear country, Kuwait. We have also informed the president and members of the UN Security Council about Iraq's aggressive intentions. Indeed, the Security Council held an emergency meeting, discussed the issue, and adopted resolutions rejecting the Iraqi intentions.

Some might wonder: What is the goal of the leader of the Iraqi regime in massing Iraqi troops, especially since there are resolutions passed by the Security Council which make it incumbent upon the Iraqi leader or regime to implement all these resolutions? The answer to this question is that the leader of the Iraqi regime believed that by massing troops and issuing threats, he could change the Security Council's stance. The leader of the Iraqi regime in Baghdad thought that, as he did on Thursday morning of 22 August 1990, he could once again succeed in executing his hostile dreams and goals.

Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdullah Salim al-Sabah, his highness the heir apparent and prime minister, also paid a visit to the United Arab Emirates troops who arrived in the country to join the troops of sisterly and friendly countries and confront the forces of treachery and aggression. Then His Highness the heir apparent and prime minister paid a visit to the U.S. troops stationed on the country's northern border. His Highness delivered a speech, in which he said:

Oh dear friends and brave soldiers: It is my pleasure and that of my colleagues to be with you today. We have come to you not only to welcome you, but also to tell you and all the brave U.S. soldiers, young men and women, and on behalf of the entire Kuwaiti people: Thank you for coming to help us when we needed you, and thank you for coming to confront Saddam Husayn's aggression. You have come here for the sake of a great cause: namely, to defend right and justice, protect peace and security, and defeat evil and aggression.

We sincerely welcome you as friends, not to fight in our place, but to fight with us against our common enemy and to protect our common interests and serve our common objectives.

You and your comrades-in-arms of the Kuwaiti troops and other friendly forces are working together on behalf of the international community against the criminal Baghdad regime. We are honored to participate with you in this noble task, and our troops are happy to work with you and learn from your know-how. I take advantage of this occasion to express our deep gratitude to the American people for its sincere support for us, and we express our great appreciation for President Clinton and his administration for their quick response. We cherish friendship with the United States, and we will continue to work for a stronger Kuwaiti-U.S. cooperation in all domains. Brave friends, I wish you success and a successful execution of your mission. Thank you and God bless you all.

His Highness the crown prince and prime minister then visited the British forces in the country. He made an address in which he said: Dear friends and brave soldiers: My colleagues and I are happy to meet you today. A short while ago, I was with your comrades-in-arms of the Kuwaiti and U.S. forces, whom I found in the best of shape, like you—tough soldiers ready to face up to and defeat aggression. I bring you the best greetings and sincerest thanks from all the population of Kuwait.

We thank you for coming with the troops of the other friendly countries to help us against Saddam's aggression. We all highly appreciated in Kuwait the immediate response of the British Government. This embodies the deep-rooted Kuwaiti-British friendship. Britain has once again proved it is a loyal friend and a trusted ally. We will continue to reinforce our joint cooperation in all fields.

Oh brave friends, I wish you success. I am afraid we can do very little about the weather, although this is a nice time of the year. However, we will spare no efforts to ensure the success of your noble mission. Thank you and God bless you all.

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Minister: Country Dubious of Iraqi Sovereignty Pledge

MM1710162194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Oct 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Sulayman Nimr: "Sabah al-Ahmad Tells AL-HAYAH: We Do Not Trust the Iraqi Regime"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait—Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad has stated that his country "does not reject Iraq's declaration of recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty and borders in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions, but it does not feel secure about and does not trust any promises or pledges made by the Iraqi regime, because of past experience with that regime."

He emphasized that Iraq's announcement about recognition "is not a concession. It is an obligation and a commitment dictated by Security Council Resolution 838, which was passed under Chapter 7 of the UN charter."

In an exclusive statement to AL-HAYAH after bidding farewell to Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, Shaykh Sabah said that Kuwait did not reject the Russian proposals regarding Iraq's recognition of Kuwaiti sovereignty and borders, but it had some reservations about the procedural steps in them. He said that the alternative to these proposals is agreement among the Security Council's permanent members to pass a resolution that would deter Iraq and prevent a repetition of its threats to Kuwait and the region. He said that contacts were under way between the states concerned to draft such a resolution. Asked if Kuwait believed that the Iraqi threats would continue as long as President Saddam Husayn remained in power, the Kuwaiti foreign minister said that "the matter has nothing to do with whether Saddam Husayn or anyone else is in power. What matters to us is elimination of any present or future Iraqi threats to Kuwait. The Iraqi regime made many promises claiming that it would recognize Kuwait's sovereignty and borders. The latest was what Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz was telling the United Nations last month while the Iraqi regime was massing its forces near the Kuwaiti borders." He repeated that "we cannot trust what Iraq says without having sufficient guarantees from the Security Council that Iraq would not threaten Kuwait's security again."

Asked if Kuwait supported the imposition of a "land exclusion" zone for the Iraqi forces in southern Iraq, he replied: "The Security Council will discuss that. We would support any measure that would guarantee nonrepetition of Iraqi threats to Kuwait's security." [passage omitted]

Iraqi Intelligence Agents Reportedly Being Held

MM1710153094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Oct 94 p 1

[Report by Muhammad Ghunaym al-Mutayri: "Arrest of Iraqi Intelligence Group That Crossed Kuwaiti Border"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait—Well-informed sources have revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Kuwaiti forces stationed on the border [with Iraq] arrested two days ago seven individuals working for Iraqi intelligence who had infiltrated the border on a surveillance mission.

The sources said that the seven people stayed among the civilians in the tents present on the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border with a view to spreading confusion.

The Iraqi group succeeded in crossing the sand barrier, and its members managed to enter the al-'Abdali area, abandoned farms owned by Kuwaitis and adjacent to the border with Iraq, and settled there. But a Kuwaiti patrol arrested them. Their interrogations revealed that they were a surveillance team led by a first lieutenant from Iraqi intelligence. Their task was to learn the size of the coalition forces, their positions, and the areas in which they are deployed.

The group's leader, who was wearing a sports outfit and carrying radio equipment, said: I am assigned by military intelligence to collect information about the military situation, size of the forces, and military material.

He added that their mission covered the area from the Kuwaiti border to Umm al-'Aysh, where the satellite center is located, 25 km inside Kuwaiti territory.

The investigations with the group revealed that some of its members are intelligence elements while others are civilians lured by Iraqi intelligence, which offered to facilitate their task of entering Kuwait and living there to escape conditions in Iraq.

Asked about these Iraqis' status, the group's leader said that they "are for camouflage in the event of the failure of the mission assigned to us." He also stressed that cases of desertion took place among the ranks of Iraqi forces before the deployments on the border with Kuwait, and that this phenomenon has doubled since the withdrawal of these deployments.

After the investigations with the Iraqi group have been completed, state security in Kuwait is expected to charge its members with making intelligence contacts with the enemy and entering the country illegally.

This is the first incident after the Iraqi deployments on the border with Kuwait.

Country Pursues Oil Expansion Projects

NC1810142694 Paris AFP in English 0926 GMT 18 October 94

[By Nadim Kawash]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 18 (AFP)—Kuwait, a key OPEC member, has completed repairs to its war-ravaged oil facilities and brought on stream

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scores of new wells amid plans to expand its energy sector, Kuwaiti oil officials said on Tuesday [18 October].

The emirate, invaded by Iraq in August 1990 and occupied for seven months, now has an output capacity reaching close to 2.5 million barrels per day (bpd) compared with around two million bpd in the year of the invasion.

"The oil sector has been fully rehabilitated and production is in full swing. We now have more than 800 producing wells," said Ahmad Salih, public relations director at the Kuwaiti Petroleum Corporation.

Salih was speaking at an international oil show in Abu Dhabi, where Kuwait is exhibiting pictures of how its massive oil fields have been brought back to life after being set ablaze by retreating Iraqi forces expelled from the emirate by a US-led coalition in February 1991.

Kuwaiti officials have accused the Iraqis of torching more than 600 wells and damaging the emirate's refineries and petrochemical installations. Repairs have cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

Kuwait drilled only seven oil wells in 1990 because of the Iraqi occupation but the operation has since gained momentum. An official Arab report showed 20 wells were spudded in 1991. 82 in 1992 and 80 in 1993.

Oil industry sources said Kuwait's output capacity would rise to 2.5 million bpd in 1995 and could reach 3.5 million bpd in 2000 if Kuwait presses ahead with multi-billion-dollar expansion projects.

Kuwait produces two million bpd under a production sharing agreement by the 12-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), but it has said it would seek a higher quota if OPEC decided to raise its ceiling.

It said its demand was justified by its large production capacity and reserves estimated at 96.5 billion barrels at the end of 1993 compared with around 97.1 billion barrels before Iraq's invasion.

"We introduced the more advanced horizontal drilling technique two years ago and we have achieved very good results," Faruq Husayn of the Kuwaiti oil company said in a paper to the oil conference here which has attracted more than 490 regional and international companies.

He said Kuwait was the last Gulf state to have introduced the technique because most of its fields were highly productive.

"But we had to use such a technique after recovery rates in some fields started to weaken," he added.

Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer and exporter, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman have introduced the horizontal operations, which are costlier than vertical drilling but give nearly four times more yield.

Several papers presented at the oil conference focused on these methods, and equipment used in horizontal drilling was also on display.

Another Kuwaiti official, Rashid Salamah, said the emirate was carrying out two major petrochemical projects as part of expansion plans.

The first one involves a one-billion-dollar petrochemical complex with an annual production capacity of 650,000 tonnes of ethylene, 450,000 tonnes of polyethylene and 350,000 tonnes of ethylglycol.

Salamah of the Kuwaiti petrochemical company said the plant was a joint venture between the Kuwaiti government, 45 percent, the US company Union Carbide, 45 percent and the private sector, 10 percent. The complex and another project to produce polypropaline would be completed in 1997.

Kuwait, a pioneer in downstream investment, now has around 6,500 petrol stations, supplies jet fuel at 25 airports, and is participating in oil operations in China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Australia, Vietnam, Pakistan, Yemen, Sudan and other countries, according to Salih.

Oman

French Foreign Minister Pays Visit, Holds Talks

Sultan Receives Juppe, Mitterand Letter

JN1810054394 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0525 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] 16 Oct, Salalah (WAKH)—Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman has received a letter from French President Francois Mitterrand. The letter deals with recent developments in the Gulf region, exchanging views on regional and international developments, as well as strengthening deep-rooted bilateral relations, the 100th anniversary of which will be celebrated tomorrow. French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe delivered the letter to Sultan Qabus during their meeting here today.

Minutes, Agreement Signed With France

JN1810060094 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The minutes of the fifth round of talks held by the Joint Omani-French Committee were signed at the Foreign Ministry this morning. The Omani and French sides also signed an agreement on encouraging and protecting investment.

Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, signed the agreement for Oman. French Foreign Minister Allain Juppe, who concluded a two-day visit to the Sultanate today, signed for France. [passage omitted]

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Juppe, Counterpart Hold News Conference

JN1810055594 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, [Omani] minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that the consultations which French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe held in the Sultanate were extremely cordial and useful. He added that the views of both sides were close and agreed on the importance of joint action, along with other Security Council member states, to defuse anything that could affect security and stability, particularly in this region.

His excellency said that during his meeting with the French minister, His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id expressed hope that the UN Security Council will manage to remove the roots of political problems in the world, so peoples will be able to devote their resources to economic and social development.

At a joint news conference with Juppe today, his excellency said the Sultanate and France are looking forward to positive and peaceful developments and better cooperation among various states in the coming months. Regarding the situation on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti borders, he said the Security Council is very interested in the steps declared; namely, Iraq's withdrawal of its troops which were massed on the common borders with Kuwait in the past weeks, and defusing a bitter crisis in the region.

He added that the Security Council is also interested in the information that Iraq is prepared to recognize Resolution 833 on borders, which was endorsed by the Security Council, and also to acknowledge Kuwait's sovereignty and implement other Security Council resolutions regarding this crisis.

His excellency believed that when Iraq clearly fulfills all its commitments, the Security Council will move unanimously, and in a positive fashion, to reconsider the sanctions imposed on Iraq in order to end the Iraqi people's suffering.

For his part, Juppe said the Omani and French views on major world issues were close, and sometimes identical. He indicated that views were exchanged on the recent events between Iraq and Kuwait, especially since both countries are Security Council member states. He stressed his country's eagerness to see the Security Council resolutions implemented by all concerned parties in the region, particularly Iraq. For this reason, he said, France quickly and firmly denounced the recent Iraqi maneuver which provoked the international community.

Juppe added: It seems that Iraq has abandoned this maneuver and withdrawn its ground forces, which is considered to be a positive step. He explained that if the information that Iraq is about to recognize Kuwait's sovereignty and borders, particularly at the Security Council, is confirmed, the good results of such a step should then be discussed.

Qatar

French Foreign Minister Meets With Officials

Deputy Amir Receives Juppe, Message

JN1510152494 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 15 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari deputy amir and heir apparent, has received a written message from French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur on current regional developments and bilateral ties.

French Minister of Foreign Affairs Alain Juppe relayed the message when his highness the deputy amir and heir apparent received him here today. Qatar Radio said that they discussed critical Gulf issues, several Arab and international issues, and the ties of cooperation between Qatar and France.

Foreign Minister Meets Juppe

JN1510151094 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1150 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 15 Oct (WAKH)—An official round of talks was held here today between a Qatari delegation led by Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani and a French delegation led by Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, who is currently visiting Qatar.

Qatar Radio said that the two sides discussed Qatari-French relations and means to promote and enhance bilateral cooperation in all areas.

The two sides also [words indistinct] the situation in the Gulf region against the backdrop of recent developments between Kuwait and Iraq. They held consultations and exchanged views on this issue out of a desire to safeguard peace and stability in the region and ensure the implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

The talks also addressed the results of the Middle East peace process. The two sides expressed satisfaction with these results and said they hope that a just, comprehensive, and durable peace will be achieved in the Middle East region on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of trading land for peace.

The radio added that the Qatari and French sides discussed the issue of granting the nationals of both countries long-term and multiple-entry visas.

Saudi Arabia

King Addresses Cabinet on Arab Gulf Developments

LD1710202494 Riyadh SPA in English 1940 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, Oct 17, SPA—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz presided today the weekly regular session

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of the Council of Ministers held this afternoon at Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah.

At the outset of the meeting, King Fahd gave a long speech in which he reviewed the crucial developments that had taken place in the Arab Gulf region since October 5 following Iraq's threats and its military movements near the border of Kuwait. The Saudi monarch also noted adoption of the subsequent and quick political and military measures to confront the threats posed by the Iraqi forces which were supported by heavy arms, tanks and armoured equipments.

In this context, King Fahd explained the nature of the kingdom's role and its efforts to defuse any foreign aggression against Kuwait and to preserve its security, sovereignty and stability, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir told Saudi press agency after the session.

"The kingdom's firm stand in support of our brothers in the past and again at the present phase was based on several considerations led by the brotherly and kinship bonds, duties of neighbourhood, faith, blood and language ties alongwith other responsibilities as enshrined in the charter of the Gulf Cooperation Council on political and military cooperation, which were regarded as a model for cooperation. And we do hope that the GCC would continue its blessed march towards more cohesion, support and cooperation with the aim of realisation of the best interests of its people for prosperity, development, security and stability," the king said.

Underlining the resolve, King Fahd reaffirmed that the Iraqi regime should honour all obligations contained in the Security Council's resolutions before any step is taken for lifting the sanctions imposed on it.

In this connection, the Council of Ministers welcomed the resolution adopted by the U.N. Security Council on Sunday as an important step towards the establishment of peace and stability of Kuwait and a true reflection of the international will to dedicate peace and stability in the Gulf region.

King Fahd also briefed the council on the outcome of his meetings and contacts with the senior guests of the kingdom including President Fidel Ramos of Philippines, Douglas Hurd, the British foreign secretary, William Perry, the U.S. defense secretary, Andrey Kozyrev, the Russian foreign minister and his contacts with a number of Arab and Gulf leaders.

King Fahd termed the outcome of these meetings and contacts as part of the efforts being made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for making a durable, just and comprehensive peace in the Arab region and said view points on all matters raised on matters of mutual interest were "almost identical."

Later, the council reviewed domestic items on its agenda and the king instructed the concerned ministers to do whatever is needed to serve the interests of citizens in various fields. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Crown Prince Condemns Iraqi Behavior Toward Kuwait

NC1710211994 Paris AFP in English 1650 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 17 (AFP)—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Monday [17 October] urged a dialogue among regional states to resolve disputes and condemned Iraq for threatening neighbouring Kuwait.

Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, deputy supreme commander of the armed forces, said the UAE had sent troops to Kuwait to defend it after Iraq massed more than 80,000 troops near the border last week.

"Preserving the right of people to live in peace is a basic commitment for any country," he said during a military graduation.

"To guarantee this right, all states in the region should concentrate their efforts on understanding and dialogue and should renounce the use of force in their relations and resolve their disputes through peaceful means and respect of neighbours."

Shaykh Khalifah, also Abu Dhabi's crown prince, said Iraqi threats against Kuwait violated the Arab League charter and international legitimacy and "deepen inter-Arab rifts and obstruct efforts to unify Arab ranks."

He said the UAE, which is linked with Kuwait through the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), "completely rejects Iraq's irresponsible behavior and practices against Kuwait."

"The UAE expresses solidarity with Kuwait and supports all measures it had taken to safeguard its security."

The UAE again joined forces from the United States and allied countries sent to Kuwait to counter a repeat of Iraq's 1990 invasion of the emirate following Baghdad's military buildup near the border.

The UAE and other GCC states fought with a U.S.-led coalition to evict Iraqi invasion forces from Kuwait in February 1991 after nearly seven months of occupation.

Shaykh Khalifah said the latest Gulf crisis underscored the need for bolstering the UAE army, adding "the best guarantee of peace is to be prepared and build up forces."

He made no reference to the UAE's dispute with Iran over the strategic Gulf islands of Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser Tunbs.

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Saddam Orders 'Special' National Assembly Session

Session Called Amid 'Growing Optimism'

NC1710125594 Paris AFP in English 1210 GMT 17 Oct 94

[By Acil Tabbara]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 17 (AFP)—President Saddam Husayn ordered a special session of parliament Monday [17 October] which diplomats said could discuss recognition of Kuwait, as Iraq for the first time reacted positively to a UN resolution.

The parliamentary session was called amid growing optimism that an Iraqi-Russian initiative to persuade the United Nations to lift crippling sanctions against Baghdad may succeed.

The official Iraqi press said the 250-seat assembly, which was supposed to be in recess until November 1, would meet at 5:00 p.m. (1400 GMT) and that foreign correspondents had been invited to attend.

Diplomats said it was expected to discuss Iraq's offer to recognize Kuwait in exchange for Russian help in obtaining a lifting of the sanctions.

The agreement was reached at talks here last week between Saddam and Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev.

Previous special sessions of parliament were called to discuss Iraq's foreign policy.

Kuwait has insisted that any recognition come from the parliament and in writing through a decree issued by the country's ruling body, the Revolutionary Command Council, which is chaired by Saddam.

The UN Security Council approved a resolution late Saturday barring Iraq from redeploying its elite Republican Guard in the south of the country or reinforcing its military capacity on the Kuwaiti border.

Iraq began massing tens of thousand of Republican Guard units in the area on October 7 prompting fears of a repeat of its 1990 invasion of the emirate and triggering a massive US-led military deployment in the Gulf.

The resolution also required Iraq to recognise the sovereignty of Kuwait, which it still claims as part of its territory.

In an editorial, the official newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH said that "in spite of the fact that this resolution criticises Iraqi troop movements and calls on Iraq to abide by UN resolutions, it clearly includes some points which are relatively positive."

The comment marked the first positive Iraqi reaction to a UN resolution since the Gulf crisis of 1990-91.

In another first, the newspaper published the entire text of the resolution without any comment.

AL-JUMHURIYAH and other Iraqi newspapers reflected a growing sense here that Iraq's four-year-old sanctions nightmare might be coming to an end.

Iraqi officials were eagerly awaiting a meeting later Monday at UN headquarters in New York between Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev and US Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The United States has rejected the Russian-brokered Iraqi offer arguing such a deal would reward Iraq's troop buildup on the Kuwaiti border.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz was to address the United Nations Monday as part of Baghdad's drive to end the crippling sanctions, imposed after the August 1990 invasion.

AL-JUMHURIYAH said the new UN text "is different from the extremist and aggressive draft resolution presented by the United States" aimed at barring all Iraqi ground forces from the south of the country.

The editorial also noted the resolution omitted a clause initially backed by the United States under which Iraq would have to give the United Nations two weeks' written notice of any troop movements in the south.

"That would have stripped Iraq of its sovereignty," the newspaper said.

"For the first time since 1990, the United States has received a slap from the United Nations," the editorial said. The world body "has not followed the orders of the Americans," it added.

"The era of American diktats is over," said the editorial, signed by the newspaper's editor in chief Salah al-Mukhtar.

The interior ministry newspaper AL-QADISIYAH added: "The awful American is more and more isolated. The number of those favouring a lifting of sanctions is growing."

Speaker Reiterates Support for Saddam

JN1710163694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 17 Oct (INA)—The National Assembly held an extraordinary session today under the chairmanship of its speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih.

During this session, the people's representatives hosted Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, and discussed the situation and developments in the Arab and international arenas, the stand at the UN Security Council, and the recent Iraqi-Russian talks.

In a statement to INA following the session which lasted approximately three hours, National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih said that the National Assembly has

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reiterated its support for the steps taken by President Saddam Husayn to guarantee Iraq's sovereignty, security, and rights, particularly the right to have the unjust blockade on our people lifted.

'Text' of National Assembly Cable

JN1710212894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Oct 94

["Text" of cable to President Saddam Husayn from National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Among the believers are men who have been true to their covenant with God: Of them some have completed their vow to the extreme, and some still wait, but they have never changed their determination in the least. [Koranic verse]

Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him. The people's representatives are meeting at the session being held on 11 Jumada al-Ula 1415 Hegira, corresponding to 17 October 1994 in order to review the dimensions and objectives of the U.S.-British clamor which is full of lies and slander—discordant voices which are known for their hostility to peoples. Amid the developments which followed Iraq's firm stand toward blackmail, procrastination, and the continuation of the unjust blockade, and the panting of the empty trumpets which are full of humiliated cries of some of the symbols of the cowardly conspiratorial role of some Arab rulers of the likes of Jabir, Fahd, and Husni, in addition to the regimes in the region which are agent to the Zionists and Americans, which derive their strength and existence from the United States, the people's representatives strongly denounce the disgraceful stands of the elements of evil and aggression.

These elements will not be able to obliterate Iraq's right to an honorable life and to its territorial integrity. Moreover, the clamor of lies and slander will not be able to suppress the voice of the Iraqi right. The U.S.-Zionist falsehood will not be able to conceal the everlasting bright Iraqi sun. The despicable aggressors and the midget conspirators will only reap the rancor of history, and the anger of humanity and all that is honorable in the Arab world. Our people will not forget all the masters of evil and their agent tools in the region, of the likes of Jabir, Fahd, and Husni, who have, along with others, contributed toward the aggression, and have insisted and are still insisting on continuing the unjust blockade against Iraq. They will be legally, morally, and historically responsible for all that has happened and will happen to Iraq and its people.

In the name of the National Assembly, we appeal to the masses of our glorious Arab nation and its parliaments to play their historic role in accordance with their pan-Arab responsibility in supporting and aiding the mujahid, steadfast, and patient Iraqi people against plotting; to reject submission and humiliation; to adopt a stand which expresses its great identity as a living nation that has taught the world how life should be; and to reject the policy of seeking the support of foreigners against brothers, which is being sought by the so-called Arab rulers.

Leader president, the representatives of the Iraqi people at the National Assembly stand, as in all the fields of decisiveness, to confront the covetous enemies, and to support all your brave historic steps to safeguard the rights of the lofty Iraqis and to fulfill their ambitions to an honorable and dignified life. We beseech Almighty God to grant Iraq righteous victory, safety, strength, and impregnability, which stands as one rank to forge their will to live behind their great historic leader Saddam Husayn, the symbol of our loftiness, existence, and pride. And soon will the unjust assailants know what vicissitudes their affairs will take. [Koranic verse]

[Signed] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih

Country Said To Reverse Stance on UN Resolution

NC1810120594 Paris AFP in English 1102 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Baghdad, Oct 18 (AFP)—In an about-face, Iraq on Tuesday [18 October] dropped its conciliatory tone toward a UN resolution restricting its troop movements and denounced the text as "the worst" yet.

On Monday the official daily Al-Jumhuriyah said the resolution had some "relatively positive" points because it omitted a US-backed proposal to ban all Iraqi ground forces from the area near the Kuwaiti border. Instead the resolution banned elite Iraqi Guard units from the area.

But on Tuesday the same newspaper called the text "the worst of resolutions."

"To demand that Iraq move northward the military units it deployed in the south constitutes flagrant interference in its domestic affairs," the newspaper's editor in chief, Salah al-Mukhtar, who also wrote Monday's comment.

He said the resolution amounted to "a dangerous precedent in international relations." [passage omitted]

Press Views U.S. Motives, Country's 'New' Position

French Position Said To Curb 'U.S. Bull'

JN1410131994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0938 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 14 Oct (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has asserted that there has been a turning point in the international position, which showed understanding of both Iraq and its effective role

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in achieving the right balance. Such balance will enhance regional security and stability and bring prosperity to the peoples of this region.

In an article entitled "A Fair Position Worthy of Appreciation," the paper says: The new French position on developments in the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait has effectively and tangibly curbed the U.S. bull. This bull was preparing for a new interference in Iraq's internal affairs only because Iraq exercised the right to move its forces inside *Iraqi territory*.

The paper adds: The new French position—on which there were unanimous views by the political currents and parties represented by the [French] Government and President Mitterrand—is important because it told the truth amid a mean clamor created by suspect western governments and media, led by the campaign launched by Washington, London, and their allies. This campaign aimed to distort facts, and, consequently, depict Iraq as the aggressor, whereas Iraq is being victimized, as fair-minded people emphasized.

AL-THAWRAH says: Through its defense minister, France was not content with stressing that Iraq did not violate the UN resolutions and that there was nothing illegitimate in the Iraqi troop movements inside Iraqi territory. French Defense Minister Francois Leotard also wondered: Did Iraq violate the international resolutions? He himself answered: No, Iraq did not do so.

The paper indicates that the fair French position has frankly rejected involvement in the U.S. clamor that escalated the situation. French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe called for not exaggerating the situation in the Gulf for political motives dictated by the U.S. internal situation facing Bill Clinton. Thus, Paris has frankly said it does not support expanding the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait, which Madeleine Albright, the U.S. representative at the Security Council, hinted at in a venomous and mean way in recent days.

AL-THAWRAH says: The French position resulted in a tangible U.S. retreat from the game of imposing a ban on Iraqi weapons in southern Iraq . It also clearly indicated the progress in the Iraqi position which is committed to the UN resolutions. The French position is based on the Ekeus report recently submitted to the Security Council, which acknowledged this fact despite the attempts at circumvention and casting doubts on the possibility of operating the permanent monitoring devices without linking this to a fabricated testing period or to a U.S. political action which would be adopted by the chairman of the UN Special Commission.

The paper asserts that the recent French position is worthy of appreciation and stems from awareness of the truth about the crisis and from the measures required by the Security Council to end this crisis. Acknowledgement by the permanent Security Council members of Iraq's commitment to the international resolutions requires work to ease the economic embargo imposed on our people. In this regard, we can read Andrey Kozyrev's statement that Russia, which is a permanent Security Council member state, is concerned to ease the economic blockade on Iraq.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Washington now understands that the logic of arrogance and aggression has failed. It wonders: Will Clinton be aware of this fact, or will he continue his injustice and keep exporting his internal problems by aggravating the international situation here and there despite opposition by the reasonable world? Will Clinton realize that Iraq is not Haiti? We think he has realized this fact, judging from the retreat in his positions at the United Nations, which used to advocate a new aggression on Iraq.

'Major Political' Success Seen

JN1510095694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 15 Oct (INA)—An Iraqi paper has said that Iraq's firm handling of the unjust blockade and effective stand against the U.S. attempt to perpetuate it have scored a major political and media success for Iraq's bid to clarify its absolute right to have the blockade lifted.

In its editorial today, AL-QADISIYAH says that in an attempt to erase facts and reshuffle cards, the American Satan fabricated a clamor over our Armed Forces' routine exercises on their national soil, claiming that they were planning to invade Kuwait.

The paper adds: In any military offensive, the surprise factor should be observed and large forces need to be massed. However, nothing of the sort was present in the movement of two military divisions within the Iraqi territory and far away from the demilitarized zone. However, the U.S. Administration has known premeditated ill intentions.

The paper explains that the majority of Western mass media, including major U.S. papers, view the contradictory U.S. statements as a major political and diplomatic setback for the U.S. Administration. They have noted that those stands will stir further U.S. and European opposition to the U.S. Administration's policies and deliberate escalation of its illegitimate onslaught against Iraq.

The paper says that what has further escalated the rancorous U.S. tone is the success of the firm Iraqi position in winning further pro-Iraq positive stands on the part of France, Russia, China, and other UN Security Council members. Iraq has also won supportive views from many papers, political analysts, and large sectors of public opinion. This particularly applies to the statements made by the French foreign and defense ministers in which they said that Iraq has not violated UN Security Council resolutions.

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The paper adds: What has further aggravated matters for the U.S. Administration and its supporters is the issuance of the joint Iraq-Russian statement following President Saddam Husayn's meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, envoy of Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The paper says that if the U.S. Administration wants to save face and maintain its balance, it should respond to the genuine international will—the will of the majority of UN Security Council member states—and deal positively with the new Iraqi position.

U.S. Said Seeking Political Change

JN1710153894 Baghdad INA in English 0940 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 17, INA—The Iraqi English language daily newspaper 'THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER' said Washington has rejected Iraq's initiative to recognise the borders and sovereignty of Kuwait, a thing which the US Administration and its anti-Iraq coalition have been pushing for.

A paper editorial said the statement issued in Baghdad at the conclusion of Russian foreign minister's visit also demonstrates beyond any doubt Iraq's readiness to cooperate with the Red Cross to solve such outstanding issues as the fate of Kuwaitis that went missing after the August 2, 1990 events.

Naturally, such a sincere bid by Baghdad to find a way out of the current impasse would allay fears of those who were casting doubt on Iraq's intentions.

The Americans, and their British friends, have seen the recent gains scored by Iraq on the diplomatic arena as a blow to their anti-Iraq coalition because this diplomatic effort is threatening their war-mongering policy in the (Arab) Gulf.

The Iraqi advances on the diplomatic front have encouraged France and Russia to distance themselves from the reckless policies of Washington. The U.S.-led coalition wants to humiliate this country through keeping in force the most unjust sanctions.

The successes achieved by Iraq have infuriated US arrogant policy makers, and the more diplomatic gains by Iraq the more frustrated the US Administration would grow.

Iraq has exposed, through its steadfastness, the American bad intentions and has proven to the world that Washington is after Iraq's destruction even if Baghdad agreed to all demands by the Clinton administration, including a recognition of Kuwait's borders. Iraq's diagnosis of the American conspiracy has proved to be to the point.

The U.S. will not stop at anything short of bringing political change in this country. But Iraqi steadfastness will foil all evil schemes.

Recent Measures Said To Expose U.S. Position

JN1710181794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 17 Oct (INA)—The newspaper BABIL has said that the recent Iraqi measures regarding the U.S. hostile escalation against Iraq have exposed the U.S. position to the entire world.

In an article by Amir al-Hulw today, the paper says: The strange thing about the U.S. position is that it continued to reject any attempt to calm the situation and resort to dialogue. This was manifested in the attempt to lay obstacles and misinterpret the Russian foreign minister's visit to the region.

The paper says: This strange position was also manifested in the insistence to maintain the embargo despite the fact that everybody has acknowledged that Iraq responded favorably to the Special Commission, and despite statements by officials from Russia, France, China, Spain, and other countries on the need to adopt a resolution that would take into account developments in the light of Iraq's positive position to lift the oil embargo in accordance with Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 and Iraq's implementation of Resolution 715. Thus, the U.S. Administration is revealing its immorality and attempts to interpret and implement the UN resolutions according to its own whims and interests.

The paper stresses that the U.S. recklessness must be faced by the other UN Security Council members with a position that would preserve their rights, prestige, and interests.

Country Still Seen as 'Regional Power'

JN1710182694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 17 Oct (INA)—The newspaper AL- JUMHURIYAH has stressed that the recent crisis fabricated by Washington has made the U.S. and world public opinion aware of the fact that Iraq is still a principle regional power which can decide the balance between the states of war and peace in the region and the world.

In an article written by its chief editor Salah al-Mukhtar under the headline "What Does the UN Security Council Resolution Mean?" the paper says: Iraq's political and diplomatic handling of the crisis produced major achievements. In particular, such handling kept Iraq's just cause alive in the mind and conscience of the public opinion and underlined the necessity and inevitability of lifting the economic embargo.

The paper adds: Iraq's handling of the crisis fabricated by Washington made the Arab public opinion realize that the "solution is in the United States' hands" axiom was only a propaganda trick. This was the result of the resounding Russian slap, which came to wake the dead, and the strong and firm Iraqi voice, which woke the

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sleeping Arabs, who roused astonished to see a scene none of them expected only one week ago.

The paper says: The prompt and clear change in the Arab League's position from criticizing Iraq to commending its position and demanding an end to the embargo and the increase in the number of Gulf individuals who are calling for lifting the embargo imposed on Iraq are indications of the new positive state of affairs in the Arab world. Such a state will expand and remove from its way the other anti-Iraq states which the product of deception and illusions.

The paper says the age of issuing easy U.S. resolutions at the UN Security Council is gone. Now the phase of checking and studying the draft resolutions presented by the United States, and debating them from several angles and not only the U.S. angle, has started.

The paper says: The Russian slap at the UN Security Council, which was applauded by several states, clearly confirms that the United States' status at the United Nations and the world is deteriorating. The fanatic use of force or the threat to use force led several countries in the world, including the UN Security Council members, to publicly reject the United States' methods and objectives.

The paper adds: What happened at the UN Security Council will certainly have a negative effect on the U.S. public opinion, because it realized, for the first time, that Russia is not finished and is still a world power that cannot be ignored.

AL-JUMHURIYAH concludes its article by saying: All the positive elements that recently emerged and materialized in the regional and international arena—after the return of the competent and smart Iraqi player and the strong and smart Russian player and after the start of a process to blend the positive elements and produce other elements—will strengthen the tendency of the international change, which succeeded recently after leader President Saddam Husayn led the first and largest world uprising in history against the dictatorship of the U.S. colonialism which has continued for more than four years.

Russian, French, Chinese Positions Viewed

JN1810103994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0722 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 18 Oct (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has emphasized that Iraq's historic leadership and the people's defiance of the U.S. tyranny and their unveiling of its tendentious positions against Iraq, have been a basic factor in letting Iraq's voice be heard by the international community and the Security Council.

In an article published today, the newspaper, specialized in the military affairs, said: This and several other positive changes in the positions of Russia, France, China, and other Security Council member states on Iraq and on the fabricated U.S. clamor are considered signs of our country's shining [word indistinct] political and media victory.

It added: This political and media victory puts us on the bridge leading to an all-out victory and the lifting of the unjust siege imposed on our dignified people.

The newspaper said: One of the most prominent signs of the Iraqi victory is the bitter disappointment of Clinton, who considered the adoption of the Security Council Resolution 949 a personal victory for him and his Democratic Party that will pave the way for winning forthcoming elections.

It said: This interprets an important part of the fabricated and exaggerated clamor about the movement of the Iraqi Armed Forces on their national soil for ordinary exercises. This clamor was meant to discharge Clinton's domestic crises and to go ahead in the attempt to impose U.S. hegemony on the Arabian Gulf region.

It added: The council continues for rulers of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, some of whom began to be disturbed by the U.S. statements concerning the stay of the U.S. forces even after the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces to their previous positions because, in their views, this serves the rising opposition to their regimes. [sentence as published]

The newspaper emphasized: The rulers of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia feel that they are heading toward bankruptcy as a result of the excessive milking by the United States. Let them know that peace and stability do not come by being milked by the United States but through lifting the unjust siege on Iraq.

It cited what Russian foreign minister said at the Security Council meeting and his warning that conflicts will rise again in the region if the sanctions continue on Iraq, especially border conflicts.

It emphasized that this clearly explains Iraq's confident steps on the bridge to victory and using all legitimate means to lift the siege. It said: We are firmly walking on this road, and we are people with rights who do not seek a reward from anyone.

Concluding its article, AL-QADISIYAH said: We clearly demand giving the right to those who deserve it, and we will not care about the lies of [U.S. UN Permanent Representative Madeleine] Albright and her fiery mood. We have iron nerves that were strengthened by ordeals and we do not care about storms and hurricanes. We will not be deceived by the noise and heresy made by the British representative.

U.S. 'Fabrication' of Crisis Seen

JN1410152594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1235 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 14 Oct (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has asserted that the failure

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of the U.S. plan to impose a ground exclusion zone in southern Iraq shows the United States' silly thinking, as well the weakness of its allegations to tarnish Iraq's sound position on the crisis.

In its editorial today, the newspaper says that the U.S. Administration was so confused that it did not consult with the allies and that it bowed to the screams of the frightened shaykhs of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. The result was that after two days of efforts and a feverish media campaign, the plan completely failed and Albright was obliged to admit that the U.S. plan was stillborn and could not even win Britain's support.

The newspaper adds that in light of the ongoing crisis the United States has fabricated by claiming the presence of Iraqi troop concentrations south of al-Basrah near Kuwait, in light of the U.S. decision to dispatch large numbers of its Armed Forces to the region, and in light of the U.S. threats to launch a new military aggression or take measures on the ground to ensure that similar threats—as it alleges—to Kuwait's security and safety will not be repeated, the issue requires an extensive discussion of the military and political aspects that explain the dangerous U.S. interpretation of the presence of Iraqi units in their positions within Iraq's national territories.

The newspaper say: Let us return to the beginnings of the crisis, which the United State has fabricated for reasons that we will make clear later.

As soon as the fabrication of the crisis began, Iraq announced that it had sent its forces to the region to hold routine exercises, which the Armed forces has held in different areas of the country at various times.

The newspaper adds: Let us assume, for the sake of argument, that Iraq intended to invade Kuwait and that these forces were sent to the area for that purpose. Let us now ask if that assumption is logical militarily and politically, if it is reasonable under the current circumstances of both the world and the region, and if this is in line with U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry's statements that his departments have noticed that Iraqi forces have moved over time and that these movements are not for routine military exercises. This reveals that the Americans have a great ability to monitor any movement or any major military reinforcement in the region. These departments have pictures from satellites and espionage and surveillance aircraft. Some of these pictures were presented to the Security Council during the session it held at U.S. request for that purpose. Therefore, based on the data and pictures it possesses, Washington estimated the Iraqi forces in the area at two divisions of the Republican Guard and said there were 25,000 Iraqi soldiers, then 35,000 soldiers, then 60,000 soldiers, and finally 80,000 soldiers, whom it said will be used to invade Kuwait.

Any military officer or analyst with a modicum of insight or knowledge about military formations and the shift from a training status to an attack position would be shocked by the tendentious U.S. claim that these two Iraqi divisions, picked up by U.S. intelligence, were poised for an invasion of Kuwait. An observer is bound to ask: Would it be possible for Iraq to attack and conquer Kuwait using these two divisions without considering the number of troops needed to attain such a strategic goal successfully?

Observers are bound to recall the August 1990 events—when Iraq deployed 500,000 troops, according to Western military estimates. Iraq then had the largest military force in the region and entered Kuwait using 300,000 soldiers at a time when there were no American forces in Kuwait or early warning systems or airborne U-2 planes. Neither was there an air exclusion zone, off limits to the Iraqi air force as is the case now. The political situation then was also not as tense as it is now.

Based on these facts, the logical conclusion is that anyone contemplating going into Kuwait now must mobilize at least the same size force that was deployed in 1990 if they are to mount a lightning attack. There is also the need for intensive air cover and supporting naval units. The preparations for such a drive would have to be shrouded in absolute secrecy in order for such an offensive to have the element of surprise needed for a successful military operation. Even assuming, for argument's sake, that all the elements of secrecy and surprise were there, the chances for confrontation with the American forces would be high. Such an offensive would necessarily lack the element of surprise given the intensive U.S. surveillance in the region.

Thus, from a technical and military viewpoint, the two Republican Guard divisions are in no position to mount the attack the Americans are talking about, all the more so given that they are 20 km from the demilitarized zone. Add to that 10 km of Iraqi territory within the demilitarized zone as stipulated by UN resolutions. And yet, let us suppose, for argument's sake, that these two divisions were in the area for the purpose of invading Kuwait. In order for this to happen, they need open space. If they did advance on Kuwait, even at night, with 20 intervening km before they got to the demilitarized zone, they are bound to be spotted. Ahead of them would be the first early warning system zone where there are UN forces who would report the movement immediately. Besides, there is another 110 km [as received] between the demilitarized zone and Kuwait. How can two divisions without air cover and faced by sizable American forces on land, at sea, and in the air arrive in and invade Kuwait in less than one hour as claimed by the U.S. defense secretary? Not even in more than one hour would that be possible, particularly in light of the fact that the size of the Iraqi force is relatively small. The limited land space would militate against deployment and maneuver and the deployment of additional support forces to open roads, defuse land mines, and secure supply lines.

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And yet, some may wonder why these two divisions were sent to the area.

Even U.S. and British observers have explained the Iraqi troop movement as a measure taken by Iraq to attract attention. Supposing this is the case, what is wrong with that? Is it not Iraq's right to attract the attention of the world public to its fair cause? Does any case take precedence over the suffering of 20 million Iraqis and the tragedies the embargo has caused to our people over the past four years in terms of a denial of livelihood and food and medicine and other staples required for a decent and dignified life?

The paper asks: After all this, how can the U.S. defense secretary—with all the technical and intelligence capabilities of the United States—say he doesn't understand why Iraq is taking these actions? Couldn't he ask his advisers whether two divisions can invade Kuwait. Furthermore, the Americans always say that the forces that were present in southern Iraq were elite forces. Is it logical that elite forces would be involved in a battle whose results are known in advance? The battle would obviously be lost in light of the factors we have already mentioned. After more than four days of dealing with the situation, shouldn't Perry and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff realize these facts? What does this mean? Doesn't this mean that the political and military decisions of the United States are not in the hands of people who are able to analyze, but people who are able to deceive and twist facts?

This is a look at the subject from a military and technical view, but what about the political dimensions?

The paper adds: We know well that the United States does not want to lift the siege on Iraq. It has announced this officially and dealt with this position in the media in a broad manner, making this perfectly clear through its behavior. At the last hearing held by the U.S. Congress' Foreign Affairs Committee on 4 October 1994, the committee summoned Assistant Secretary of State Pelletreau. Senator Lantos asked him about the U.S. Administration's position if Iraq announces its recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty, and whether the siege would then be lifted. Pelletreau replied: In this case, we will welcome Iraq's step recognizing Kuwait's sovereignty, but we will not lift the siege.

The newspaper adds: In addition to this, we also know that Rolf Ekeus, executive chairman of the Special Commission, presented his report last Tuesday, and it was decided to discuss the report yesterday, Thursday. All signs indicate that the majority in the Security Council—10 members—before discussing the report support easing the siege on Iraq and setting a test period for the long-term monitoring. Five members are with the other position. The U.S. position is clear—it is against any majority tendency. Moreover, information obtained in the last two days said that there are now intentions, supported by U.S. pressure, to delay the hearing under the pretext of recent developments in the region.

Hence, the situation has become clear. All this U.S. fabricated clamor is aimed to obstruct the efforts intended to lift the siege on Iraq. Several Western politicians have exposed the U.S. intentions regarding this subject, including Former French Defense Minister Chevenement who stressed that the developments of the past days show that there is broad deception and a poisonous operation underway, led by the United States, aimed at brainwashing public opinion. General Jeannou Lacaze former general commander of the French Armed Forces said that the clamor made on movement of Iraqi forces within Iraqi borders is a U.S. deception operation aimed to realize special objectives.

As for current French Defense Minister Francois Leotard, he said that he does not rule out the possibility that the U.S. movement in the Gulf is linked to the U.S. elections that will take place next month. He added: We should not indulge in this sort of possibility, and we think that things should be viewed with some patience, therefore, we expressed some reservations on recent U.S. proposals. Other Western analysts said the U.S. escalation aimed to increase support for President Clinton in light of a large decline in his popularity, as indicated by latest U.S. opinion polls.

The paper says: After the intentions and objectives of the U.S. fabricated clamor were exposed, the United Stats' hysteria, which resulted from its failure to achieve its objectives, reached the point of proposing anti-Iraqi plans behind the back of its allies and without consulting them. The latest of these is the plan to impose a ground seclusion zone between Iraq and Kuwait to ban the movement of Iraqi troops and the deployment of heavy weapons there. The state of confusion led the U.S. Administration not only to fail to consult with its allies, but also to yield to the cries of the frightened shaykhs of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. The result was that after two days of efforts, which were accompanied by a feverish media mania, the plan failed drastically. Albright, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, who only two days ago was speaking in exasperation and fury, was forced to acknowledge that her country's plan was stillborn and that it is not supported by anybody, not even not by Britain. She also said the United States is currently working on a draft resolution that it plans to present to the UN Security Council and which includes an appeal to Iraq to withdraw its troops and return them to the positions at which they were deployed before they moved into the area.

The paper concludes its editorial by saying: The confused U.S. conduct and the miserable defeat received by the plan submitted by the U.S. envoy to impose a ground seclusion zone in southern Iraq indicate the shallowness of the United States' thinking and the frajility of the allegations it made to distort the sound Iraqi position. At the same time, the wisdom and sanity of the Iraqi leadership's logic in dealing with the crisis, which was fabricated by the United States itself, was confirmed. Also, the correctness of the Iraqi handling of the situation, which was based on a sound assessment of the

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situation, was confirmed. That handling was based on quick responses and relied on the unity of our people and their legendary steadfastness, which was supported by the virtuous people of the world and which, in the end, made the United States fail to win the support of its allies for its plan, which it had to withdraw in order to save face.

Army Officers Said Executed After Assassination Bid

MM1710142694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Oct 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Iraqi opposition sources have said that Iraqi authorities last week executed a number of senior Army officers following an attempt to assassinate President Saddam Husayn. Dr. Hamid al-Bayyati, representative of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, said that most of the executed officers are from among Republican Guard commanders and active Iraqi Army units stationed in Baghdad and its suburbs. And that scores of other officers, whose ranks ranged between major and brigadier, were also executed a few days ago because of the opinions they had expressed, which reflected their opposition to and discontent at the movements toward the border with Kuwait. The sources stressed that "'Ali Hasan al-Majid" [quotemarks as published], the regime's defense minister, personally supervised their execution.

Foreign Media Teams Visit Kuwait Deportees Camp

JN1610140994 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Correspondents of world television networks and news agencies as well as the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY have visited the camp set up by the League of the People With Rights in the area overlooking the demilitarized zone south of the city of al-Basrah.

The media missions, which represent Paris France-2 Television Network, AFP, the Japanese KYODO News service, the television network NBW, AP, Paris LIBERATION, and the Japanese television network, held interviews with the people with rights. They were acquainted with their demands for repatriation, and the restoration of rights usurped by the al-Sabah clique.

The campers have exposed the heinous practices perpetrated against them, which contravene human values and citizenship rights.

Mrs. (Marlene Lakoh Juppert), correspondent of Paris France-2 Television Network, said that during her visit to the camp set up by the people with rights south of al-Basrah, she obtained firsthand knowledge about the suffering of the Kuwaiti deportees, and also about the deprivation of children, women, elderly, and men of their national rights. She also felt their determination to return to Kuwait and reacquire their rights.

In a statement to a correspondent of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY in the al-Basrah Governorate, she added that she will communicate the facts to the world public. She went on to say that she will enlighten the French people and international organizations about the rights of the Kuwaitis expelled from their homeland. She said that she believes that the personal documents and papers they possess, which are signed by senior members of the ruling Kuwaiti family, are valid, not to mention that they have Kuwaiti birth certificates, some of which date back to the time when the al-Sabah family entered Kuwaiti territory.

UNICEF Report Says 2.5 Million People at Risk

JN1710152894 Baghdad INA in English 0950 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 17, INA—Over 2.5 million people in Iraq are likely to be at risk should the economic embargo continue on the people of this country, a senior UN official warned.

The UNICEF representative in Iraq, Thomas Ekvall, said the lives of children, pregnant women and lactating mothers are threatened.

In a report entitled "Impact of Reduction in Food Ration on the Most Vulnerable Children and Women," the United Nations Children's Fund official said a total of 665,000 (3.6 million people) households are believed to be affected by the recent reductions in food rations.

The 40 per cent drop in food ration has been blamed on poor harvest and the UN-imposed embargo.

According to the UNICEF report, nutritional problems are being reported nation-wide with an increase in cases of marasmus and kwashiorkor, severe forms of malnutrition.

The report said a study by the government of Iraq and UNICEF in March this year has indicated that severe and moderate malnutrition among children of the age group 0-12 months have increased at a rate of 9.2 per cent from the previous year.

The report said the most vulnerable groups include 125,000 children under the age of one year and 575,000 children under five.

There are also 1,585,000 children under 15, as well as 230,000 pregnant women and lactating mothers.

Children, pregnant women and lactating mothers could be seriously affected due to a shortfall of calorie intake of up to 50 per cent compared to the energy required. Children under five years, already on the edge of mild and moderate forms of malnutrition, may reach the level of severe malnutrition, the report concluded.

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It said the increase in the number of severe malnutrition cases, expected in the longer term, may lead to an increase in infant mortality.

The expected increase in low birth weight as a result of poor nutritional status among pregnant women together with an expected higher infection rate among undernourished children will be contributing factors, the report noted.

It warned that mild to moderate cases of malnutrition may enter the stage of chronicity where stunting would be noticeable.

Nutritional deficiency may affect the growing brain of young children resulting in deterioration in the intelligence level of the growing population.

The UNICEF report said the rationing system introduced by the government in August 1990 kept starvation at bay in the poorest sections of the society. By late September 1994, the volume of the food basket had gradually increased in terms of quantity and caloric value to reach 1,770 calories per day per person. This represented 70 per cent of energy required.

The report said the agricultural sector has enjoyed the utmost attention to boost food production as the country has to rely heavily on domestic production to meet local demand. To this effect, the government increased purchase prices significantly between 1990 and 1993.

In the course of 1994, four major groups of commodities were enlisted for further subsidies including grains, oil seeds and vegetables.

Despite these measures the output remained constrained due to shortages of seeds, herbicides, fertilizers, insecticides and spare parts for machinery.

PLO Executive Committee Member Expresses Support

JN1710214794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 17 oct (INA)—'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, secretary general of the National Progressive and Patriotic Front, has met with 'Ali Ishaq, PLO Executive Committee member [and assistant secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front], and his delegation.

During the meeting, 'Ali Ishaq conveyed greetings from the Palestinian Arab masses and their militant forces to President Saddam Husayn, and voiced their pride in the courageous militant stand taken by the Iraqi people and their courageous leadership in the face of the Zionist and colonialist schemes and their evil objectives.

'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur stressed that the U.S. hostile propaganda campaign against Iraq aims at maintaining the unjust embargo and obstructing...[sentence incomplete as received].

He said the pan-Arab awakening, embodied by the major duel in the immortal Mother of Battles, which is led by President Saddam Husayn continues to strengthen the state of the pan-Arab renaissance and the nation's ability to stand fast, resist, and achieve its desired goals of unity and liberation.

The meeting was attended by the director of the Revolution Command Council's Liberation Movements Bureau.

Vice President Receives PLO Official

JN1710215194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 17 Oct (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, the vice president and Revolution Command Council member, has received 'Ali Ishaq, PLO Executive Committee member and assistant secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front, and his delegation.

During the meeting, Taha Yasin Ramadan stressed that the children of the Arab nation who believe in its presence and power will continue to struggle to defend it and will not yield regardless of how strong the conspiracies of the enemies may become and regardless of the methods they use to weaken and colonialize it and plunder its wealth.

He said Iraq, under President Saddam Husayn, has foiled the hostile imperialist-Zionist-Atlantic aggression and will destroy the economic aggression, represented by the continued embargo, through the march of reconstruction and jihad which the Iraqis are translating into a comprehensive renaissance. [passage omitted]

Kurdish, Shiite Opposition Leaders Meet

NC1510203494 Paris AFP in English 1553 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 15 (AFP)—Iraqi Kurdish and Shiite Moslem opposition leaders have met in the Iranian capital as part of efforts to coordinate the fight against Iraq's President Saddam Husayn, the Shiite group said Saturday [15 October].

The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) said its leader Ayatollah Mohammad Baqir Hakim held talks on Friday with Mas'ud Barzani, head of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP).

They discussed "ways to strengthen the fight against the Iraqi regime and of consolidating unity" among Iraq's opposition groups, said the Tehran-based SAIRI.

The two leaders also discussed the deployment of U.S. troops in the Gulf following an Iraqi troop buildup near the Kuwaiti border earlier this month and vowed to work to preserve Iraq's territorial integrity.

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Barzani was on his first visit to Iran since the Kurds took over northern Iraq after the 1991 Gulf War. On Thursday, he met Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Tehran supports the Moslem fundamentalist Kurdistan Islamic League (KIL) and has launched cross-border attacks on Iranian Kurdish rebels hiding out in northern Iraq, according to Iraqi Kurds.

But Barzani's fighters have sided with KIL against the other main Iraqi Kurdish group, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan led by Jalal Talabani.

According to Kurdish sources in Tehran, Barzani is expected to travel to Paris to sign a French-sponsored peace accord with Talabani. Hundreds of people have been killed in fighting for control of northern Iraq since May.

Attacks Against Southern Marshes Reported

NC1610165494 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1440 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Documentary Center for Human Rights in Iraq has stated that in the first few days of this month military units of Saddam's regime launched attacks against a large number of villages and populated areas in the marshes of al-'Amarah Governorate.

In a letter to [name indistinct], special commissioner for human rights in Iraq, the Center, which is a nongovernmental organization concerned with human rights in Iraq, added that the attacks left one Iraqi citizen dead, another wounded, and 10 homes destroyed. The Center pointed out that units from the Republican Guards took part in these attacks, which concentrated on the area of (Abu-'Ashrah) in al-Salam district, the (al-Humar) and (Abu-Dunaysah) in al-Majarr district, the [name indistinct] in al-Kahla' area, as well as the populated areas of [names indistinct] in the al-Majarr district of al-'Amarah Governorte.

Kurdish 'Activist' Killed by Bomb Near Irbil

NC1710175794 Paris AFP in English 1609 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Oct 17 (AFP)—A bomb blast killed an Iraqi opposition activist and wounded three others in Iraqi Kurdistan, a dissident group said Monday [17 October].

The Iraqi National Congress [INC] said in a statement received here that five kilos (12 pounds) of TNT exploded Sunday inside the office of an opposition group in 'Ayn Kawa, near the city of Irbil.

The INC blamed Iraqi intelligence agents for the blast but did not say what faction the victims belonged to.

Kurdish rebels seized control of northern Iraq in an uprising against President Saddam Husayn following the January-February 1991 Gulf War.

The area is run by a Kurdish government that is not recognized by the international community.

In Baghdad, the Iraqi Red Crescent announced Monday that a shipment of food aid will be sent to the area from Baghdad on Tuesday.

The aid was granted by the International Committee of the Red Cross following an appeal by the Iraqi Red Crescent, the latter's director Sa'dun Khalifah said.

He said the aid consisted of cooking oil, rice and lentils but did not specify how much would be sent. Other shipments will be sent in the next few days, Khalifah added.

It was the second time this month that Baghdad announced a relief shipment to Iraqi Kurdistan.

On October 2, the United Nations sent 1.8 million Kurdish- language school books from Baghdad to Iraqi Kurdistan.

Paper Comments on Claims About Iranian POW's

JN1410141094 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 3 Oct 94 p 2

["Standpoint" column by Sabri Hammadi: "Prisoners and Lies!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mohammad Nazaran, chairman of the so-called POW's Committee in Tehran, has claimed that the committee has 31,677 files on Iranian prisoners. He also claimed that "based on existing evidence" there are more than 15,000 Iranian prisoners still alive in Iraq.

Of course, this is not the first time Nazran speaks about Iranian prisoners held in Iraq. He had previously announced that there were 5,000 Iranian prisoners whom Iraq refused to release. He then said that Iranians in Iraqi camps were actually 8,000. Here he is now raising the number to 15,000 and 32,000, and we will not be surprised if he increases this number to 50,000 in the next three months!

This time, we will not bother to reply to Nazaran's claims, but simply refer him to a memo which was circulated by the International Committee of the Red Cross among UN Security Council members on 26 September this year and which affirmed that "despite Iran's claims about thousands of Iranian prisoners still held in Iraq, Red Cross records and other sources confirm that these claims are not correct." The memo added that "there is not a single Iranian prisoner held in Iraq." On the other hand, the ICRC asked for a clarification from the Iranian regime about the fate of 18,894 Iraqi prisoners who are registered with the ICRC, or who have been identified through letters exchanged with their kinsmen, or have spoken through Iranian news media.

So, there is not a single Iranian prisoner held in Iraq as testified by the ICRC. As for the claims by the chairman

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of the so-called POW's Committee in Tehran, they are pure lies and baseless allegations which the Iranian regime has fabricated to cover up its problem with the Iranians, with whom it has not been frank by not giving them correct information about the number of Iranian soldiers killed in the war. Since Rafsanjani himself had admitted once that many of the soldiers who were thought still prisoners in Iraq were probably killed in the war between the two countries, how can the Iranians believe that there are still Iranian prisoners held in Iraq until now?!

It is very obvious that the Rafsanjani regime, which is facing a amounting political and military war launched by the Iranian resistance and a general collapse in its conditions, is trying in vain to cover up its inhuman attitude toward Iraqi prisoners who are still being held without any justification. It is also trying hard to divert the attention of Iranians, who resent its dictatorial oppressive policy, to foreign issues. But the problem of this regime is that its lies and exposed allegations cannot be believed anymore.

Housing Minister Departs on Visit to China

JN1410145194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 14 Oct (INA)—Housing and Reconstruction Minister Mahmud Dhiyab al-Ahmad left for Beijing today on an official visit to the People's Republic of China expected to last several days.

The housing and reconstruction minister told INA that the visit is in response to an invitation from the Chinese construction minister. He added that he will hold talks concerning cooperation between the two countries in the fields of roads, bridges, and construction.

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Rabin, Peres, Cabinet on Peace Accord With Jordan

Cabinet Endorses Peace Agreement

TA1710203994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] This evening, the cabinet endorsed the peace agreement that was initialed in Amman this afternoon. Officials at the Prime Minister's Office are making preparations for the official full signing ceremony, which will take place in the 'Arava in another nine days.

It appears that President Clinton will attend the ceremony and speak before the Knesset and the Jordanian parliament. Egyptian President Mubarak phoned Prime Minister Rabin this evening and congratulated him on the agreement with Jordan.

Rabin Comments on Agreement

TA1710155994 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Oct 94

[News conference with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem "several minutes ago"—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Yaron Deqel, New Channel 2 Television political correspondent] How does it feel to return to Jerusalem with an agreement in your pocket?

[Rabin] This is a significant accomplishment. It is the first peace treaty to be signed after the Madrid conference. Speaking both as the prime minister and a member of the Labor Party, I would like to say that this is the first peace treaty signed by a government led by a Labor Party official. This agreement, however, mainly constitutes a highly important milestone regarding both some of the precedents it includes and the fact that peace will reign along Israel's longest border with an Arab country. I believe that peace with Jordan will become a warm peace with close cooperation. Therefore, I truly consider this a historic day.

[Shlomo Ganor, Israel Television Channel 1 correspondent, in Arabic] Is this a sign of anticipated future developments with Syria, sir?

[Rabin] I did not say this. The two issues are independent of each other. Clearly, however, this underscores the possibility of reaching an agreement. When both parties want to achieve peace, they know how to overcome all their problems and find satisfactory solutions, while mutually respecting each other's dignity and remaining loyal to authentic principles and not to all kinds of vague contentions. I therefore believe that this peace agreement constitutes one of the most important steps in the present government's efforts to achieve peace.

Peres Praises Agreement

TA1810070594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 18 Oct 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Jack Katzenell in Jerusalem on 17 October—recorded, broadcast in progress]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Peres] ...Middle East it is a real turn in the right direction. We feel that we have negotiated an honest agreement. I think the Jordanians, on their side, got the most important things for them, and for us as well, namely that Israel does not take an inch of their land. We did not come to grab anything. We did recognize their rights. Secondly, Jordan will get the water that she is entitled to have, and both of us will try to produce more water. Then again, all those legitimate rights that the Jordanians have enjoyed will remain in her hand. And then, we became partners not only that have solved the problems of the past, but partners that have engaged themselves to build a new future.

I told the king, and I can repeat it here, this time it was not a negotiated peace, but really an agreement how to build a new peace in the area. It is not how to make peace, but how to build peace.

[Katzenell] Sir, was the cabinet decision unanimous?

[Peres] One hundred percent. I mean, I think all the members of the cabinet are extremely satisfied and supportive.

Clauses of Agreement Viewed

TA1710203294 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 Oct 94

[Studio talk between anchorman Hayim Yavin and Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Yavin] Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari is in the studio. Ehud, both King Husayn and Prime Minister Rabin said that there were no winners nor losers in this peace agreement. Let us analyze this agreement now. You have the initial details of the agreement's contents. Let us analyze them clause by clause. First of all, the border issue.

[Ya'ari] The agreement itself consists of a 15-page document and another five annexes. It is couched in positive language with the clear intention of maintaining parity between both parties. It contains everything one could possibly want: the abrogation of the Arab boycott; the overcoming of psychological obstacles; the need to uphold human dignity, which is mentioned in the annex; the recognition of sovereignty; political independence; the right of each party to live in open and recognized borders as stipulated by UN Resolution 242; a commitment to refrain from using force to resolve conflicts; the development of economic cooperation in both the local and regional framework; the abrogation of the Arab

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boycott; Peres' idea to establish a regional security committee in the Middle East; and so forth.

[Yavin] But the question that has concerned everyone is borders.

[Ya'ari] Now to the border issue. I address my remarks to the residents of the 'Arava. According to the agreement, none of the 'Arava settlements loses its lands. Even lands that will be relocated on the Jordanian side of the new border, for example in the settlement of Tzofar, will be leased out, or, at any rate, the Israeli settlers from Tzofar will be permitted use of the land for 25 years with the option of extending that period. In return, the lands of Naharayim in the Jordan Valley, which are currently farmed by Ashdot Ya'aqov will be relocated on the Jordanian side, but the Jordanians will recognize the private ownership rights of the Israelis and their right to work on the land.

Another aspect of the border issue pertains to the exchange of 30 square km of territory between Jordan and Israel, above and beyond their agreement on respecting the blue international border line. The Jordanians had originally demanded 380 square km but later dropped their demand to 330 km. Now, 30 square km of territory will be exchanged, with both parties agreeing to recognize the blue international border line. It should also be noted that because the Jordan and al-Yarmuk Rivers have changed course during the years following the demarcation of the British Mandate's borders, both parties agreed that the recognized border from now on runs exactly in the middle of the river in its present form.

[Yavin] How was the water problem, which had everyone so worried, resolved?

[Ya'ari] This is the main point. Beyond the agreement's general statements in one of the annexes about the equitable distribution of the Jordan and al-Yarmuk waters and the 'Arava, in terms of both quantity and quality.... [pauses] Incidentally, the settlements in the 'Arava that irrigate their land from wells and are currently in the process of drilling will continue to receive water in the same quantity and quality, even after the land is relocated across the Jordanian border. The agreement speaks about the need to search for a practical solution for water management and the future discovery of water sources. Now for the actual steps: In the first stage, 50 million cubic meters will be accumulated by establishing a dam at 'Adasiya near al-Yarmuk's estuary to Jordan. This dam is designed to accumulate the winter floods and al-Yarmuk's waters for Jordan's benefit so that they can be used for irrigation purposes. Israel has promised to permit additional waters in similar quantities to flow southward from the Deganya Dam—let us say another 50 million cubic meters—with the Jordanians' being permitted to use these waters by building additional dams across the lower part of the Jordan River. The important principle here is that neither Jordan nor any other Arab country has been granted a foothold in Lake Tiberias, which remains an exclusively Israeli water source. Israel has promised to allot the other party a certain amount of water, but no Arab party has any real foothold on Lake Tiberias. We can say that the Jordanians have received a promise for an increment of slightly over 100 million cubic meters of water even before we start developing additional water sources.

[Yavin] What about the sensitive issue of Jerusalem?

[Ya'ari] There is not one word in the agreement about this issue beyond what was already stipulated in the Washington declaration. I would like to stress this issue. We have examined it carefully, and this is very important. The major part of the document states that there will be freedom of worship and access to historical sites for both parties and that during the negotiations over the permanent settlement Israel will give a high priority to Jordan's historic role in the Temple Mount mosques, which are holy to Islam. In other words, the formulation agreed upon and initialed today by King Husayn and Prime Minister Rabin does not deviate in the slightest from what was already included in the declaration of principles and the nonbelligerency agreement signed between Jordan and Israel in Washington on 25 July 1994. There is no change in the situation regarding Jerusalem following today's initialing of the document, and that is the main point.

[Yavin] The last 24 hours have been very dramatic. What else remains to be resolved?

[Ya'ari] The actual steps themselves. For example, both countries will exchange ambassadors five weeks from today. Tourism will start within three months. Some sections of the border—there are problems with the maritime border in the Gulf of 'Aqabah—may take about nine months to demarcate. The negotiations themselves were concluded yesterday. [passage omitted]

Syria Said To Grant Exit Visas to 'All' Jews

TA1710191694 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 Oct 94

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Rabbi Avraham Albert Hamra, the former chief rabbi of Damascus, will leave New York tonight for Israel. He is immigrating to Israel together with his wife Harriet and their six children. Syria's Jewish community is disintegrating. Over the past two years, 3,650 Jews have left Syria, and over 1,300 have immigrated to Israel. The rest live in Brooklyn, New York, and Jewish Agency officials hope that several hundred more Syrian Jews will follow in Rabbi Hamra's footsteps and arrive in Israel. [passage omitted]

Yosef Ja'ajati, deputy head of the Jewish community in Damascus, said that all the Jews remaining in Syria have exit visas, but not all of them are interested in using them right now. Since the Syrian Jews received permission to immigrate, most of them have left for the United States or Israel, and only 230 Jews, the richer members of the

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community, have remained in Damascus. [passage omitted] Only a third of Syria's Jews immigrated to Israel. Most of them first resided in the United States, while a minority came directly through Turkey. The Jewish Agency handled the immigration of the Syrian Jewish community.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1630 and 1700 GMT on 17 October carries recorded passages of cabinet ministers reacting to the reports on the arrival in Israel of the Syrian Jews. Finance Minister Shohat says: "Without going into details, I believe that under the surface of such gestures the real thing is taking place in the talks, in the exchange of stands, in which the U.S. secretary of state is also taking part. The gestures, therefore, will not bring about or start a process. The process exists; the talks exist; the offers are being exchanged. I believe that, because both governments made a strategic decision to reach an agreement, eventually we will reach an agreement."

[Education Minister Rubinstein says: "Naturally I view it very positively. It is one of the confidence-building steps we have demanded Damascus to take. It is a step in the right direction, and it is very important that this step be followed by others."

[Foreign Minister Peres says: "This is a good sign, and I am very pleased that the Jews were allowed to leave Syria and that they are coming to Israel."]

Peres on Syria's Jews, Future 'Problem'

TA1810085294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 18 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Friedman] Mr. Peres, why has Hafiz al-Asad agreed to allow Syrian Jews to emigrate? Does he regard this emigration as part of his confidence-building measures aimed at convincing us his peace intentions are sincere?

[Peres] I am not sure he wants to convince us; I believe he is mainly interested in convincing the United States, and us only indirectly. The movement on this issue—which is very important to us—was extremely slow, but there was movement.

[Friedman] Was their departure from Syria and arrival in Israel publicized with al-Asad's knowledge?

[Peres] I do not know. The fact is that there is nothing to hide anymore.

[Dan] Mr. Peres, I heard from the Samra family—who are sitting here next to me—that al-Asad was amazed to find out that all Syrian Jews, thousands of people, immediately asked to leave after he gave permission. For this reason, at a certain stage, he again raised difficulties upon their departure. Are you aware of this?

[Peres] Are you saying that al-Asad raised difficulties?

[Dan] Yes, at a certain stage.

[Peres] Yes, there was a certain delay in their departure from Syria. A great Syrian poet, however, wrote the following lines: Had the bird needed a government license to fly, and had the fish needed an Interior Ministry license to swim, we would have lived in a world without birds and fish. This is a broad cue directed at the Syrian regime.

[Dan] Mr. Peres, the people here are smiling with great pleasure as you quote this poem. It appears they are very familiar with the poem.

[Peres] Yes, the poet's name is (Cabani), who is in exile in England. This poem is a sharp criticism of the Syrian regime. In my opinion, Syria's problem, in the future, will be to rid itself not only of the state of war, but also of its regime. The world is opening up and nobody can close it. I noticed that Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar' informed the Arab League in general terms that Syria has decided to adopt a policy allowing departure. This is also something.

[Friedman] Mr. Peres, now we have two peace models, an Egyptian one and a Jordanian one. Both of the agreements interpret UN Resolution 242 rigidly: In exchange for peace Israel is to return all occupied territories rather than some of the occupied territories. However, whereas Egypt had uncompromisingly insisted on receiving everything back to the last inch, Jordan has agreed to set up a mechanism for exchanging territory and leasing land, and this sets a precedent. Which one of these two models will serve as a basis for the peace agreement with Syria?

[Peres] Look, as far as we are concerned the Jordanian model is more reasonable. Jordan did not lose even one inch of land. I do not want to describe this agreement as though Jordan came out the loser. This is untrue. In this case reason prevailed. Jordan has not been deprived of even one inch of its land. It can tell the Arab world that it has negotiated and received all it is entitled to. This solution also has a precedence in Jordanian-Saudi relations. When we sailed on the king's yacht during our previous visit to al-'Aqabah, Husayn proudly pointed at a 28 km-long road along the coast of the Red Sea which Saudi Arabia gave Jordan so that it would be able to build the port of al-'Aqabah, which is some distance south of the city itself. In exchange, Jordan gave Saudi Arabia territory on the other side of the mountain.

[Friedman] Returning to the talks with Syria, will Israel insist that even if Syria receives sovereignty over the entire Golan Heights, Israel will lease a part of the Golan Heights?

[Peres] There is no doubt that had Syria evinced more flexible positions, negotiations would have achieved more progress. So far the negotiations are floating in the air rather than moving forward; in other words, these

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negotiations are not practical, and we are constantly doing our utmost to bring them down to earth, to the hard facts on the ground. I believe Syria is making a mistake by insisting, even before the negotiations have commenced, that Israel must state it will give up all the territory and remove all the settlements. This is not the proper way to conduct negotiations. [passage omitted]

Sarid on Government Response to Yasin Appeal

TA1410185094 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 14 Oct 94

[Interview with Environment Minister Yosi Sarid by Yisra'el Segal in the studio—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Segal] Minister Sarid, will Israel be prepared to discuss the release of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin?

[Sarid] I will tell you only this, Mr. Segal. We were very impressed by Shaykh Ahmad Yasin's call not to harm the soldier Nahshon Wachsman. Israel has never been unappreciative and ungrateful when such humane calls were issued. We appreciated and took note of this call with great satisfaction. We will know how to acknowledge it.

Arab Councils, MK al-Sani' on Wachsman Operation

TA1510175394 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1600 GMT 15 Oct 94

[Studio interview with Knesset Member Talib al-Sani' of the Arab Democratic Party by anchorman Hayim Yavin—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Yavin] The Committee of Arab Local Councils has endorsed Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's decision to carry out a military operation in a bid to rescue Nahshon Wachsman and strongly denounced Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] for his abduction. The committee sent its condolences to the two bereaved families and expressed its sorrow over their deaths.

Opposition to the operation was voiced by Knesset Member [MK] Talib al-Sani' who was involved in the contacts with Hamas. We invited him to our studio. Good evening, sir.

[Al-Sani'] Good evening.

[Yavin] MK al-Sani', you said that the operation could have been avoided, that human lives could have been spared, and that the crisis could have been settled through negotiations.

[Al-Sani'] First, I would like to send my condolences to the families of the soldiers that were killed and my wishes for a speedy recovery to the wounded.

My efforts to secure the soldier's release began on Wednesday, following a meeting with the deputy defense minister held at his request. I contacted the representatives of Hamas, and on Thursday I delivered a message to United Torah Jewry MK Avraham Ravitz following a previous conversation, to the effect that if Shaykh Ahmad Yasin were released there was a chance of extending the ultimatum deadline. He later told me that he had relayed the message to the Prime Minister's Office but had received no reply.

Friday morning I called Hayim Yisre'eli, director of the defense minister's bureau, and informed him about the willingness to extend the ultimatum on condition that Shaykh Yasin be released or an announcement was made that Israel would be willing to release him. I received no reaction. At 1730 I spoke with Eytan Haber, director of the prime minister's bureau. He took the number of my cellular phone and promised to get back to me. After 30 minutes he phoned me with a clear message which he read out to me, whereby if Hamas issued a public announcement extending the ultimatum, the government would be willing to seriously consider the abductors' proposals. I translated the message into Arabic and relayed it to the Hamas representative. It took some time before they ended their consultations and looked into the matter. About one hour later I received their reply that they had agreed to extend the ultimatum by 24 hours, on condition that Shaykh Yasin and the female Palestinian prisoners were released from jail during that time.

Had a chance been given for a dialogue, for an alternative approach, I believe Nahshon would be alive today. In my opinion, it would have been no tragedy if the sickly Shaykh Yasin were released to his home in the Gaza Strip. Incidentally, the Gaza Strip is not controlled by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] nor by the Israeli Government. Therefore, no harm would have been done if Shaykh Yasin had been released into the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

Arab Killed in Hebron; Firebombs Thrown in Ramallah

TA1610163894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israeli troops today shot a 22-year-old resident of Halhul, 'Imad al-Darba, in the Hebron area. Military sources say it appears he was involved in a suspicious activity and, when he refused to respond to soldiers' orders to stop, they opened fire. The army said it is investigating the incident.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1600 GMT on 16 October in the headline at the beginning of the newscast reports: "Israeli troops kill a Palestinian man in the Hebron area."]

Palestinians threw two firebombs at the Ramallah police station today. The firebombs exploded, but caused no injuries or damage.

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Paper: Country Must Not Equate Islam With Terror

TA1710121394 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 17 Oct 94 p 9

[Commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari: "Stop Dredging Up the Past for the Good of the Future"]

[FBIS Translated Text] By nature, the tragic events over the weekend focused attention on the direct confrontation between Israel and Islamic terror. The war against terror, however, is not confined to the Israeli-Palestinian sphere but encompasses the entire Middle East.

On the very same day, religious fanatics stabbed Egypt's most prominent writer, Najib Mahfuz. Seeing that Egypt is also waging an unrelenting war against the spiritual brothers of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions on its soil, it is no coincidence that Cairo Radio carried a sympathetic report about the Israeli military operation to rescue the kidnapped soldier.

Moreover, the United States and Britain have been beefing up their military presence in the Persian Gulf against Saddam Husayn's army. This is not just aimed against the violent government in Baghdad but also against neighboring Iran, whose fingerprints were clearly evident in the kidnapping and murder of Nahshon Wachsman.

An important development in the comprehensive war against Islamic terror is the fact that the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] in Gaza joined it. It is no secret that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat anguished for a long time over whether to confront Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. The heads of the Palestinian police had long been pressuring him to do so, but it seems that only the Wachsman affair and the unequivocal pronouncements by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in their meeting in Alexandria finally convinced him.

One should beware of generalizations and emotional conclusions in analyzing this fight. The Wachsman affair did not show only the ugly face of Islamic terror but also the kindly and humane face that reflects the true essence of Islam. The touching words of Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, leader of the Islamic Movement in Israel, and of Umm-al-Fahm Mayor Rayid Salah's appeal for the release of the abducted soldier, and, no less important, the explicit call by Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the spiritual leader of Hamas, not to hurt the soldier—all these must be taken into consideration.

We should also beware of launching an all-out war against Islam—not only because it would be futile, but because 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam does not represent Islam but the political interests of radical circles in Tehran and their allies in the Muslim Brotherhood organization worldwide.

One of 'Arafat's toughest problems has to do with national image. For the first time, he openly appeared to cooperate with Israel against his Palestinian brothers. This is a weak point which Hamas is fully exploiting against 'Arafat—and Israel should also take these difficulties facing 'Arafat into account.

This issue affects not only 'Arafat's relations with Hamas but also relations within Fatah. As is known, classic Fatah refused to take part in the Oslo agreement as long as the occupation continues, because the agreement calls for cooperation with Israel. In the wake of recent events, the split in Fatah may become final and official, and the opponents of the Oslo agreement within Fatah may join Hamas in a common struggle.

The first signs of this alliance were evident in the arrest of Fatah and Hamas activists in Ramallah about two weeks ago. As it turned out, those who incited the Fatah members to engage in hostile activities were the same commanders who did not move to the territories with 'Arafat but stayed behind and criticized his policy.

The 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions want to fulfill the precept of jihad, but their controls outside the territories want to thwart Shaykh Ahmad Yasin's intentions of joining 'Arafat's PNA. This became evident last week, and Israel should infer conclusions from this development with regard to Shaykh Yasin's continued imprisonment.

The shaykh is no saint. In the past, he led the Muslim Brotherhood in violent and terrorist directions. Those PLO members who currently help Israel fight Islamic terror, however, once were members of Black September. Hence, the time may have come to stop dredging up the past for the good of the future.

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Support for, Opposition to Israeli Treaty Reported

Cabinet Approves Draft Treaty

JN1810114894 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The cabinet has discussed the draft peace treaty between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Israel, which was initialed last night, Monday. It was clear to the cabinet that the draft treaty is in line with the Jordanian constants in terms of restoring Jordan's full rights to its territories and waters and in terms of demarcating the permanent international borders between the two countries. The cabinet discussed the possibilities of cooperation in all fields based on agreements that will be reached later. The cabinet decided to approve the treaty and to authorize the prime minister to sign it in its final form.

The cabinet extends its thanks to His Majesty King Husayn for his tireless efforts to achieve Jordan's full rights and elevate Jordan's role in the region. The cabinet wishes his majesty continuous good health and success in leading this homeland in the battles of prosperity and progress.

The cabinet also noted the efforts His Highness Crown Prince Hasan Bin-Talal exerted to reach this treaty. The cabinet commended the sincere efforts and efficiency demonstrated by the Jordanian delegation during the negotiating process.

Opposition Parties Reject Accord

JN1810120694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Oct 94, pp 1, 2

[Report by Ayman al-Safadi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Opposition parties on Monday [17 October] declared their rejection of the peace treaty that was initialled by Jordan and Israel but appeared reconciled to their inability to change the course of events.

Representatives of opposition groups in the Kingdom told the JORDAN TIMES they will resist the peace agreement, which was announced by His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitshaq Rabin yesterday, but stressed their opposition will be restricted to democratic and constitutional means.

Spokesman of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) Hamzah Mansur said: "We feel sorrow and sadness" towards Monday's development and said his party, the most influential in the kingdom, does not believe the agreement will bring about peace to the region.

"Peace that is imposed and peace that is not just cannot last," Mr. Mansur said, contending that the peace agreement between Jordan and Israel was neither just nor comprehensive.

But head of the leftist Jordanian Ba'th Arab Socialist Party Ahmad al-Najdawi admitted the opposition groups do not have the power to prevent the signing of the peace treaty, expected next week.

"Out bet is on the people who will eventually reject the agreement," said Mr. al-Najdawi, whose party rejects the peace process in its entirety.

The leftist Democratic Party for Progress in Jordan also said it opposed the peace deal between Jordan and Israel but pointed out that the group's position stems from its expectation that the deal will fail to restore all occupied Arab lands.

Engaging in peace talks in meant to produce a peace treaty, 'Ali 'Amir, head of the party, told the JORDAN TIMES. But he said the peace his group would support is one that is comprehensive and can lead to return of all lands occupied since 1967.

In a statement issued in reaction to the announcement of the peace deal, the IAF parliamentary bloc said: "We were shocked by the news of the initialling of the agreement and the reception of Rabin in our capital, Amman, and act that did not take into account the feelings of our people."

The IAF, which contended the agreement was signed in disregard to the wishes of the representatives of the people, called on all members of the Lower House of Parliament and political parties in the kingdom to express their rejection of the deal.

"Based on our Islamic beliefs, which declare Palestine from the sea to the river a Muslim Waqf [endowment] that nobody can give up, we reiterate that jihad is our only choice to liberate Palestine," the statement said.

The IAF pledged to fight the agreement with all the power it has, urging people to work hard to abort it in protection of their land and faith.

Mr. Mansur told the JORDAN TIMES the IAF will escalate its opposition to the peace process after Parliament convenes, expressing hope that other deputies will join the Islamists in working against the treaty.

But indications are the IAF will fail to win support of the majority of deputies for its bid since more than 50 deputies have publicly said they supported the Washington Declaration and the peace process.

The Constitution stipulates that agreements be presented to the House for ratification after they are signed by the executive authorities.

Mr. Mansur said: "The opening of Parliament will give us a real opportunity to fight the agreement," adding the front will organise rallies and other public activities to express its rejection of the treaty.

But he said the government should prove its commitment to democracy by allowing such activities which he described as legal means to express different points of view.

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A group of eight opposition leftist, Islamist and pan-Arabist parties had earlier spoken strongly against the Washington Declaration, declaring July 25, the day it was signed a day of public mourning but their call produced little if any response from the people.

Despite opposition claims that the majority of Jordanian oppose the peace process with Israel, they have yet to present any proof of their claim.

Just as on July 25, there were no signs of popular discontent that the opposition said exists among the people towards the deal yesterday, with life proceeding as normal in the capital and other cities of the Kingdom.

IAF Vows To Resist Peace Treaty

JN1810090994 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 18-24 Oct 94 p 1

["Text" of statement by IAF deputies on the draft Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty issued at the Jordanian House of Representatives in Amman on 17 October]

[FBIS Translated Text] During the past few days, we have witnessed heroic actions by the youth of Islam in Jerusalem and Palestine. They sacrificed their blood for the sake of their nation, religion, civilization, and dignity. We, however, were dumbfounded to hear, through the official Jordanian media, that a comprehensive peace treaty was signed with the Zionist enemy and that the spiteful Rabin was received in our capital, Amman. This reception paid no heed to the feelings and dignity of citizens, who saw the killers of peoples and leaders of massacres desecrate our country.

This agreement, which was signed without observing the nation's creed and constants and without showing respect for the people's representatives and national parties, is considered a violation of all constants and a crossing of all red lines. This agreement conflicts with our creed and brings humiliation and disgrace upon the nation. It also constitutes a capitulation and submission to the will of the Jewish enemy. Therefore, we reject it in part and parcel and will never accept it under any circumstances. We call on our brethren deputies to reject this agreement. We also call on party, trade union, and other popular key figures to declare their rejection of the agreement and foil it with all possible means.

Proceeding from our Islamic constants, which confirm that Palestine, from the [Jordan] river to the [Mediterranean] sea, is an Islamic waqf [endowment] no part of which can be relinquished by anyone no matter who he may be, we stress that jihad is the only option to liberate Palestine and the occupied Arab lands. This is based on God's saying: Fight them, and God will punish them by your hands, cover them with shame, help you to victory over them, and heal the breasts of believers. [Koranic verse] The prophet, peace be upon him, also said: Jihad will continue until doomsday.

We do also stress the nation's right to perpetuate jihad until the realization of this goal, which is a religious duty and whoever prevents jihad will be considered a conspirer against the nation's civilization, land, and holy sites.

While we reject this agreement and all its consequences, and reject Rabin's desecration of Amman, al-'Aqabah, and any other site in our dear country, we announce before all that we will resist this agreement with all our strength in defense of our creed, dignity, and the higher interests of our country, nation, and future generations. This humiliating agreement will make Jordan and the rest of Arab countries easy prey to Jewish and Talmudic ambitions.

The dignity of this people will not be realized by sitting in the laps of Jews nor by receiving their criminal leaders. It will be realized by giving the people their role, and by belonging to the Arab and Islamic identity. Therefore, this agreement, which is detached from the people's spirit, is binding only to its signatories. The people and nation, on the other hand, will maintain their Islamic view as declared many centuries ago. The Koran says: Strongest among men in enmity to the Believers wilt thou find the Jews and Pagans. [Koranic verse] The Jews must know that this agreement, which is rejected by our nation's masses, will not survive or last long, nor will it find its way to the hearts of our proud Jordanian people, who view it merely as an agreement of capitulation and submission.

The IAF [Islamic Action Front] deputies call on our dear people, our glorious nation, and active forces to unite, stand in the trenches of their Arabism and Islam, and seriously work for foiling this agreement and all other agreements that consecrate the Zionist presence, superiority, and drive to achieve evil Zionist goals in setting up the greater state, God forbid. We are confident that with honest intentions and strong will, victory will be the lot of our nation. God will certainly aid those who aid His cause—for verily God is full of strength, exalted in might. [Koranic verse]

Treaty Called 'Historic Achievement'

JN1810122694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Oct 94, p 6

[Editorial: "Treaty Finally in Place"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The initialling yesterday of a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel was indeed an historic achievement, not only because it has established a framework in which enmity between the two countries is replaced by good-neighbourliness and cooperation, but also because the agreement puts an end once and for all to a tortuous path of negotiations and speculation that has taken its toll on Jordanians, Israelis and other people. If, as Jordanian and Israeli leaders asserted yesterday, everybody emerged as a winner from accepting the terms of the treaty, then the stage should be

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set to open a new page in this region's history, based on friendship rather than confrontation, and on shared development instead of war and violence.

What lies ahead, though, could be just as challenging and difficult as what has happened in the past. There is no reason to think rather prematurely that the road ahead would be strewn with roses. Rather the opposite could be closer to reality. Putting flesh on the skeleton of the peace treaty could be most taxing to both sides given the years of animosity and hostility that separated our peoples for many decades. Prudence would call for careful assessment of every step of the way as we proceed to implement the various features of the regime of peace now in place. There is no justification to lay down our vigilance because our people need time and effort to adjust to the new reality. Despite the fact that we as a country are ready politically to go ahead with the implications of the impending peace treaty, there is no assurance that our people are psychologically prepared for normal ties with Israel as yet. This also means that economic and commercial transactions between the two sides have to be conducted at a measured pace. The culture of and for peace between the two countries might need more time to take root than most of us would be willing to concede. The euphoria about the prospects of peace and its eventual dividends must not blind us to the bitter truth that forging peace between peoples would need more than formal accords. We would therefore counsel a certain degree of prudence and patience.

All this means that there is a great deal of work ahead for all of us. Fanatics and extremists are there on both sides of the fence ready to strike at the first opportunity opened to them. A head on collision with hard liners may not be the most profitable way to deal with them. After all rejectionists have just as much right to their perspective as supporters of the peace process have as long as opposition is expressed in lawful and democratic ways. Both sides are called upon to show greater sensitivity to the other's point of view. Otherwise the peace between the two states would lack true depth and take a longer time to take root.

Belated Coverage of Treaty Initialing Explained

JN1810113394 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Oct 94 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (J.T.)—As his Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin addressed an assembly of officials and journalists with the historic news of the initialling of a peace treaty between the two countries, Jordanians had to switch to Israeli Television (ITV) for live coverage of the event.

Jordan Television and Radio said that belated coverage was simply due to a technical hitch.

"We were ready to transmit five minutes after the beginning of the press conference, but then due to a hitch in the microwave link it was no longer possible," said television director Nasir Judah.

"The whole event was recorded and then as soon as we were able to go on air we did. We showed the whole event 15 minutes after it had finished," Mr. Judah added.

On account of the original lack of coverage by JTV, Jordanian watchers of Israeli Television heard the news (without live pictures) in either English or Hebrew with snatches of Arabic spoken between the King and Arabic-speaking journalists being dubbed in Hebrew.

Eventually, the initially of a draft peace treaty by prime ministers 'Abd al-Salam al-Majali and Rabin, described by King Husayn and Mr. Rabin as "unique", was broadcast in its entirety.

As far as radio was concerned, Arabic and English broadcasts began transmission half-way through the press conference and initialling of the agreement. Mr. Judah noted in refuting claims (made also in the Syrian media) that Israeli Television carried Monday's ceremony live but Jordanian electronic media did not despite previously announced plans to do so.

Jordan Television staffers said they had "technical problems" because the ceremony was postponed for nearly three hours.

Syria announced the Jordanian-Israeli initialling in a straightforward account on the state-run Syrian Arab News Agency.

King-Rabin Meetings Seen Speeding Talks' Progress

JN1710110594 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Oct 94 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "The Husayn-Rabin Meeting and Its Positive Reflections"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There is no doubt that His Majesty King Husayn's meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on the eve of a new round of Jordanian-Israeli talks in al-'Aqabah will give a strong push to the deliberations and results of this round.

Every time a summit is held, positive results are directly reflected on the negotiations in terms of surmounting obstacles, bridging the gap in positions, and reaching good results. We say this bearing in mind the outcome of the meeting held a few days ago between His Majesty King Husayn and Rabin. That meeting helped make tangible progress in the recent round of talks in Elat. It also created an atmosphere of optimism which permeated all meetings and talks on the Jordanian-Israeli track.

Based on this, we can say that the next round of talks in al-'Aqabah will lead to progress, thanks to the summit meeting held on the eve of this round. One point that should not be overlooked is that this progress on the

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Jordanian-Israeli track did not come out of the blue. It is rather the result of the skillful negotiating tactics of King Husayn and his insistence on the restoration of Jordan's inalienable rights to land, water, and borders, as well as other sovereign rights. Through his great vision, he managed to convince the Israelis that Jordan will not relinquish an inch of its land or its share in the al-Yarmuk River and the Jordan River waters, and that it will not go back on any of its constants which have become clear to all. Therefore, this emphasis on the inalienable rights and working, at the same time, for a just and durable peace that will benefit all peoples in the region has helped overcome obstacles and continue negotiations. The unwavering and firm Jordanian position on the inalienable and sovereign rights should also be underscored.

In light of the Husayn-Rabin summit, observers predict that a Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty will be signed shortly. Here, it should be mentioned that this treaty will be concluded after the realization of all of Jordan's sovereign, inalienable, and legitimate rights and after all the issues listed on the common agenda and the Washington Declaration have been accomplished. We have to recall King Husayn's confirmation, time and again, that a peace treaty will be the crowning of Jordan's attainment of all its sovereign rights, including land and water rights, and that it will not come before that.

In brief, the Husayn-Rabin meeting will push peace talks on the Jordanian-Israeli track toward the establishment of a just, durable, and comprehensive peace aspired by all the peoples of the region. Talk about a treaty before the realization of all Jordanian rights is premature and is tantamount to putting the cart before the horse.

U.S. Interpretation of Resolution on Iraq Assailed

JN1810095194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Oct 94 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "The Arbitrary U.S. Interpretation of The UN Security Council Resolution"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States interpretation of the recent UN Security Council Resolution regarding southern Iraq is cause for astonishment and surprise and implies a great deal of arbitrariness. This is not to mention that it stinks with hatred, especially since this interpretation is not shared or approved by the majority of the UN Security Council permanent members.

It seems clear that when the United States considers the above-mentioned UN Security Council resolution an authorization to, once again, use force against Iraq, it still has the intention to carry out a new military strike against a people who rebuilt their infrastructure—which was destroyed by the United States—with extreme difficulty. Moreover, this strange U.S. interpretation of the recent UN Security Council resolution is an escalation of the situation which the international community has been trying to appease. The international community also exerted extensive efforts to avoid the possibility of another war in the Gulf region. These efforts achieved a tangible and clear success in all this.

We will not be adding much to what is already known about the U.S. stand—which is going overboard with its hostility against the people of Iraq—when we say that by escalating the situation, Washington is sending another clear message that it will keep urging the UN Security Council to renew its unjust embargo against about 18 million Iraqi citizens who have been suffering from a shortage of food and medicine for four consecutive years.

Based on all this, we join our voice with the voices of those countries, governments, and peoples who denounce such an arbitrary interpretation of the recent UN Security Council resolution. We, along with many others in this world, call for lifting the starvation siege against the people of Iraq and for an end of the tribulation of millions of Iraqi children, women, and elderly, as the reasons to continue depriving them of their basic rights to live are no longer justified.

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Al-Hirawi on Arabs' Race for Peace With Israel

NC1710123994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 17 Oct 94

[Speech by President Ilyas al-Hirawi at opening of Arab paper industry fair in Tripoli—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Our efforts are focused on encouraging Lebanese, Arab, and international investment in Lebanon by removing red tape, creating tax incentives, and guaranteeing capital and the transfer of funds. Lebanon has begun to recover its economic position after international confidence in our economy has been renewed. [passage omitted]

A joint Arab market is the practical way to deal with a number of deteriorating economic conditions in most of the countries of our region. The agreements concluded between Lebanon and sister Syria can serve as a good example for this approach. [passage omitted] The belligerent Europe of yesterday has forgotten the past to build a unified, strong Europe primarily for economic reasons. What about this Arab East which is joined by the bonds of brotherhood, language, heritage, and common interests? Is it illogical that the acts of peace between the Arabs and Israel are being accelerated while there is no economic cooperation among the Arabs themselves? [applause] How can our Arab brothers feel assured about the impending peace toward which they are racing while there are Arab territories that are still occupied and Arab rights that have not been restored? We mean the south, western al-Biqa' and the Golan. [applause] How can we accept that the minarets and church towers of Jerusalem still get permission from the Israelis to praise and glorify God? [applause] Israel claims it is democratic. Where is democracy while its prisons are crowded with Lebanese detainees who are defending our dignity?

Dear friends and guests: We will not rest until the last inch of our land in the south, western al-Biqa', and Golan is returned and until all legitimate Arab demands are restored. [passage omitted]

Birri Addresses Chamber of Deputies Session

NC1810142794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri addressed a plenary parliamentary session which was opened today in the presence of 78 deputies. The government was represented by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Michel al-Murr and ministers Mahmud Abu-Hamdan, Shahe Barsoumian, and Hasan 'Izz-al-Din.

After reviewing the chamber's achievements, Birri said the most important bills that the chamber will discuss in future are the budget, economic-social council, and the audio-visual media law. He noted that the budget will be endorsed in light of the pressing priorities, that is the handling of economic-social crisis. He called for supporting the steadfastness of the south and completing the structure of the defense institution as two imperative conditions to help Lebanon face the burdens of occupation.

Nasrallah Vows 'Resistance' To Continue

NC1710095394 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hizballah Secretary General al-Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah has stressed that the death of the Lahdist agents [South Lebanese Army, SLA] is imminent [words indistinct], the resistance will not stop, and the enemy must leave our occupied territory.

He was speaking at a celebration marking the anniversary of [words indistinct] martyrs, which the Islamic Resistance held in Burj al-Barajinah [in Beirut]. He said: We appreciate this [words indistinct], which supports resistance politically and morally, but that is not enough. He asked: Does the occupied south concern only a group of the Lebanese or [words indistinct]? Does the restoration of the land [words indistinct] concern part of the Lebanese or concern them all? Nasrallah said the state's primary duty is to resist with all [words indistinct] in the political and diplomatic confrontation [words indistinct] and martyrs. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Criticizes Peace Prize to Rabin, 'Arafat

NC1610181394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah today expressed the opinion that granting the Nobel Peace Prize to Yitzhaq Rabin, Shim'on Peres, and Yasir 'Arafat befits the interests of [word indistinct] and that the standards according to which this prize is granted are not the standards of justice, fairness, or humanity.

In a statement, Hizballah says: We believe that granting the Nobel Peace Prize to Rabin and Peres is like rewarding the two of them for all the massacres, attacks, and terrorism they have committed against the Palestinian people.

Hizballah Assails Gulf, Arab States Ties With Israel

NC1810103994 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 7 Oct 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hizballah has issued a statement condemning the steps and pretexts that had been made to normalize relations with the usurper Zionist enemy. The statement says in part: Certain Gulf and Arab Maghreb countries have treacherously and shamelessly embarked on steps to normalize relations and dismantle the barriers with the usurper Zionist enemy. These countries' behavior gives the impression that the Arab stance toward the Zionist entity had never been adopted out of conviction or based on principles and interests.

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Needless to say, Yasir 'Arafat, head of the self-rule police, held the fig leaf that concealed the weaknesses of the Arab system in the past. When he decided to tie his ambitions to the Zionist plan, the fig leaf fell away, revealing the weaknesses and evil acts that are much worse than we expected.

The statement adds: We do not know in whose interest this string of concessions is made. Is it the need of the oil kings for more wealth, or the advanced steps achieved by Yasir 'Arafat and King Husayn of Jordan along the road to regaining Palestinian and Jordanian rights, or is it the normal role of regimes that have taken upon themselves from the start the achievement of everything that would serve the U.S. policy and everything that would make the Zionist entity a prominent natural partner in the region?

The statement notes that what is worse is that this major open-door policy toward the Zionist entity comes at a time when crises among the Arab countries are escalating. This policy is adopted in exchange for a policy of harshness directed against Iraq and perhaps against Iran and Yemen also. Therefore, we are passing through a phase where demands could only be achieved by crossing through the Israeli gate.

It says: The ruling regime in Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] is ignoring the internal popular opposition in order to please and to pant behind Washington through the normalization of relations with the Zionist entity. This Saudi policy represents a crime far bigger than quelling the opposition and silencing its voice. [passage omitted]

The statement affirms that the final say and decisive stand are not up to the regimes that are collapsing on the threshold of the nation's enemies. These are only made by the people's choices that do not miss the target or lose the way regardless of the deviationist regimes' attempts to portray treason as gains achieved for the sake of their peoples' interests, security, and prosperity.

Fadlallah on U.S.-Israeli 'Plan' for Talks

NC1310113794 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said the United States is seeking to arrange Arab affairs so as to enable Israel to open diplomatic, economic, and political channels to the Arab and Islamic worlds. He said that the U.S. plan is designed to consolidate the Israeli position in the negotiations under the pretext of strengthening the Labor Party-led government, portraying it as a government promoting the peace process, unlike the Likud Bloc.

Fadlallah said that this stage is one of removing barriers that prevent a settlement and creating a psychological climate favorably responsive to a political settlement. He noted that there is a new climate conducive to a settlement but that at the same time there are serious problems concerning Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli issues. Therefore, he said, a settlement is not near, as the information media claim.

Fadlallah said that the climate of struggle in occupied Palestine is developing and that resistance operations are [words indistinct]. He said that the problem of the Arabs is that they are cooperating with their enemies against one another but are not cooperating together against their enemies. This is the reason for the Arab defeat that emanated from distancing themselves from Islam and [words indistinct].

Fadlallah Calls U.S. 'Primary' Enemy of Muslims

NC1410215194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In his two sermons for Friday prayers in Beirut's southern suburb today, 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah described the United States as the primary enemy of Muslims and oppressed people in the world. He said that White House officials, through a policy of double standards, are seeking to protect their own interests and those of the Zionist entity. They never hesitate to take any measure to realize these interests, he said.

'Allamah Fadlallah condemned the Zionist entity's recent deportation of a number of Muslims from their homes in south Lebanon. He said the United States raised a huge clamor because a Zionist soldier in occupied Palestine was taken prisoner, describing the operation as conflicting with human rights. But the United States, he added, is completely silent on Zionist crimes, not even pretending to take a position against them. [passage omitted]

'Resistance' Claims Killing Israelis in Operation

NC1710082094 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Islamic Resistance continues to have a rendezvous with jihad and sacrifice to liberate the land from the usurper occupation [words indistinct]. Yesterday afternoon, [words indistinct] attacked a patrol [words indistinct], a mine sweeper, and a Merkava tank. The mujahidin [words indistinct] and rocket-propelled grenades, setting the tank on fire, damaging the mine sweeper, and killing or wounding many Israeli soldiers.

The Islamic Resistance' Fire Support Unit also shelled occupation positions in al-Ayshiyah and [place-name indistinct] scoring direct hits. The occupation forces and their agent militias admitted the operations without specifying the casualties. [passage omitted]

Radio Reports Israeli Shelling of Southern Villages

NC1610180794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] One citizen in al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and a child in Kafr Tibnit were injured today in Israeli shelling targeting the two villages. During

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recent hours, the shelling also pounded the towns of Yuhmur, al-Shaqif, Haddathah, Bra'shit, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Mazra'at al-Hamra', Jabal al- Rafi', and the outskirts of Kafra, Yatar, Siddiqin, and Majdal Zun. The resistance responded to this shelling by attacking the post in Tallat al-Dabshah.

At 1345 today, the deserted army barracks in al-Nabatiyah, al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, Kafr Tibnit, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, and Mazra'at al-Hamra' came under shelling from the occupation posts on the hills around 'Alman and al-Shumariyah.

The shelling of al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa injured citizen Fida' Nayil Ghandur. She was taken to al-Najdah al-Sha'biyah hospital in al-Nabatiyah. The shelling of Kafr Tibnit also caused minor injuries to a child and destroyed the homes of citizens Ahmad Kamil Dughan and Husayn Hasan Qasir.

In the past few hours Israeli attacks targeted a number of liberated areas in the south, where the outskirts of Majdal Zun were shelled around midnight last night with artillery accompanied by flares along the coast south of Tyre and over most of the towns and villages in the western sector. This shelling was accompanied by enemy boats cruising off the coast of Tyre.

At dawn this morning, the occupation forces shelled the outskirts of al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and Kafr Tibnit from their positions in Tallat 'Ali al-Tahir.

Syrian 'Intelligence Agents' Arrest Fatah Official

NC1710121894 Paris AFP in English 1040 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sidon, Lebanon, Oct 17 (AFP)—Syrian intelligence agents arrested four members of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah group, including a top official, in south Lebanon over the weekend, Palestinian security sources said here on Monday [17 October].

Khalid 'Arif, a member of Fatah's leadership and one of its top officials in the southern port of Sidon, was among those arrested, the sources said.

The others were identified as Mahmud al-Asadi, a Fatah financial officer in Sidon, Abu-Mansur, Fatah deputy commander for north Lebanon, and a man named only as 'Atif, who runs the group's finances in north Lebanon.

No reason was given for the arrests, which were carried out Saturday and Sunday in Sidon and on a coastal road that runs further south.

Syria is a major power-broker in Lebanon, where it has stationed 35,000 troops.

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TV Reports Jordanian-Israeli Treaty, Reactions

JN1710204494 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1847 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A draft treaty between Jordan and Israel was initialed in Amman today. It was signed for the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, and for the Israeli side by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

The signing ceremony was held at the al-Hashimiyah Palace in Amman before a crowd of Jordanian and Israeli journalists. Prior to the signing, King Husayn of Jordan delivered a speech. He expressed happiness at what was achieved in the negotiations between both sides.

For his part, Rabin described this day as a historic and important day. He said this peace treaty was the final objective we were seeking. At a joint news conference with King Husayn, Rabin said his negotiations with King Husayn focused on the issues that should be resolved, particularly the international borders drawn by the British mandate between Jordan and Palestine.

King Husayn expressed hope that he will visit Jerusalem in the near future. However, he declined to set a date for such a visit. The king added that signing a final peace treaty may take place within one week, but there is no specific date or venue for the this.

Addressing the Israelis, King Husayn said: We are very happy, now that we have arrived at this point. Addressing Rabin, the king said: I thank you, and I am proud to be your partner in these efforts.

Israeli President Ezer Weizman telephoned King Husayn and Rabin. He congratulated them on reaching a draft peace treaty between Jordan and Israel. U.S. President Bill Clinton also telephoned King Husayn and Yitzhaq Rabin to congratulate them. King Husayn invited Clinton to visit Jordan. The president promised to respond to this invitation in the near future.

(Nisim Zvili), secretary general of the Israeli Labor Party, has said that signing the treaty was not a surprise step because this agreement was reached several months ago. The Israeli cabinet held an extraordinary session this evening to endorse the draft peace treaty between Israel and Jordan after Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and his delegation returned to Tel Aviv from Amman where the draft treaty was signed.

Both the Israeli opposition and coalition parties have unanimously lauded and welcomed the signing of the draft peace treaty between Israel and Jordan in Amman today. Binyamin Netanyahu, leader of the Israeli Likud Party, welcomed the signing of the draft treaty. He said: If most territory in the Wadi al- 'Arabah remains in Israel's hand, this agreement will be good.

An Israeli source today said the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty will be officially signed at a ceremony that will be held in 10 days time somewhere along the common border between both sides. Israeli sources expected that Wadi al-'Arabah would be the venue of the final signing, whose date has not yet been officially set. They said that U.S. President Bill Clinton may attend the signing ceremony.

For his part, (Shim'on Shift), director general of the Israeli prime minister's office, has revealed that Rabin and King Husayn yesterday agreed not to remove the Israeli settlements in the occupied Jordanian Wadi al-'Arabah after returning it to Jordan. Israeli sources explained that the treaty includes the exchange of ambassadors and a security appendix preventing both sides from threatening one another.

Italian Foreign Minister Arrives, Makes Statement

JN1610201994 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Martino and his wife arrived in Damascus this evening on a two-day visit to Syria. The Italian minister was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', his wife, the director of the West European Desk at the Foreign Ministry, the director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, the Syrian charge d'affaires in Rome, and the Italian ambassador in Damascus and the embassy staff.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, the Italian minister expressed his happiness over his visit to Damascus, and said the aim of the visit was to hold talks with Syrian officials on bilateral relations, the situation in the region, and the peace process. Martino added: Syria has a distinguished view on this issue, and that is why we have come. We will also discuss other issues of common interest, including cooperation and stability in the whole region—the Mediterranean and the Gulf regions.

Meets al-Asad

JN1710214394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Martino and his delegation at the People's Palace at 1300 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Syrian Charge d'Affaires in Rome Mrs. Su'ad al-'Abdallah, and the Italian ambassador in Damascus.

Martino relayed to his excellency the president a message from Italian President Luigi Scalfaro. His excellency the president asked him to relay his greetings and best wishes to President Scalfaro and the Italian people.

The talks addressed the regional situation and the peace process.

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The Italian minister expressed his country's appreciation of the positive role Syria is playing in the region, saying that this role is central to the peace process.

For his part, his excellency the president explained Syria's position on the peace process, and its serious efforts to achieve the objectives set for it. He hoped Europe could play an effective and appropriate role to promote this process.

An official round of talks was held between the Syrian side headed by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Italian side headed by Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Martino. The meeting was attended on the Syrian side by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur; the heads of the Foreign Ministry's Western Europe Department, Economic Department, Consular Department, and Special Bureaus Department; and the Syrian charge d'affaires in Rome. For Italy, the meeting was attended by the directors of the Immigration Department, the Social Affairs Department, the Development Cooperation Department, the Political Affairs Department, the Economic Affairs Department, and the Press and Media Department. The director of the Italian foreign minister's office also attended.

This round of talks addressed the latest developments in the peace process, as well as developments in the Gulf region. The Syrian-Italian ties were also discussed. Both sides reiterated the importance of promoting and expanding these ties in all areas. The talks also dealt with relations between Syria and the European Union, and the means to improve and promote them, as well as issues related to security and cooperation among the Mediterranean states.

Italian Foreign Minister Antoni Martino and his wife left Damascus this evening after a two-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', his wife, several senior officials of the Foreign Ministry, the Syrian charge d'affaires in Rome, the Italian ambassador in Damascus, and Embassy staff.

Al-Shar' Reacts to Treaty at Departure

JN1710193494 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in 1840 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Italian Foreign Minister Antoni Martino and his wife left Damascus this evening after a two-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', his wife, several senior officials of the Foreign Ministry, the Syrian charge d'affaires in Rome, the Italian ambassador in Damascus, and embassy staff. [passage omitted]

One of the journalists accompanying Martino asked Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' the following question: Israel and Jordan began a peace treaty a few hours ago, what is the Syrian stand vis- a-vis this and will Damascus reach the same point in the future?

Al-Shar' said: Our stand vis-a-vis the peace process in the Middle East is clear to all. We believe there will be no stability in the region before achieving a just and comprehensive peace. Therefore, we always criticize separate accords. However, we hope the Israeli Government will realize that without achieving peace with Syria and Lebanon there will be no peace in the region. Al-Shar' added: This is not merely criticism, but to say the truth because this is the truth in the region. Regardless of the separate deals they have concluded, the Arabs, from the East to West, and even Israel, are always that, so far, there is no peace. They signed three agreements, however peace has not yet been achieved.

'Inseparability' of Lebanon Track Viewed

JN1610080694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 16 Oct 94

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] TISHRIN says the growing scope of Syrian-Lebanese coordination confirms the unity of the two countries' stands and the unity of the children of the one Syrian and Lebanese people.

The paper continues: Despite the pressures and attempts to cast doubts about the one and joint pan-Arab Lebanese-Syrian stand, all such attempts will certainly end in inevitable failure. The Syrian-Lebanese brotherly relationship has defeated all plots that targeted Lebanon's existence, security, life, and destiny.

The paper adds: Lebanon, supported by Syria, has emerged strong, healthy, and able to stand fast. It has foiled all those plots which tried to bring it to its knees, humiliate it, and partition it. The paper stresses that the will of the Lebanese people has triumphed and that the Lebanese people have adhered to their national march—the march of relaxation, economic and social revival, national accord, and peace. The paper says that the unified Lebanese-Syrian policy of adhering to the core and constants of the peace process is among the facts of strength of the two countries. The paper stresses that Damascus and Beirut adhere to coordination, joint relationship, and common destiny to restore their occupied territories based on the inseparability of the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

Israel Blamed for 'Gaps' Noted by Christopher

JN1710221094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Oct 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: All efforts, including the recent tour by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, have failed to bridge the gap separating Syria's position from that of Israel. During their talks in Damascus and their contacts with the Syrians, Christopher, as well U.S. Administration officials, might have felt that Syria was sincere in its trend toward peace and that it

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wanted to establish just and comprehensive peace in light of the bases set for it since the Madrid conference opened three years ago.

It is the will of the international legitimacy that opened the way to the Madrid conference and that has saved the process from collapse time and again. In light of this, Syria is not responsible for the gap that Secretary or State Christopher had mentioned. It is Israel that bears responsibility for the absence of real progress in the peace process and also for the continued gaps in positions.

The Israeli officials' proposals and ideas are still far from the bases of the just and desired peace, which should first begin from a frank, clear-cut declaration, including an agreement to carry out a total withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon. They are still refusing to reveal their vision of peace. Moreover, they view peace as a gain for them that should end the state of war; establish diplomatic, economic, and touristic relations; open borders; and lead to security arrangements. In addition, they daily announce other conditions.

They want to achieve all this, even before they declare their readiness to withdraw from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the western al-Biqa'. At best, they are setting long-term periods for vague withdrawals, as well as very short periods for normalizing relations. In other words, the Israelis want to reap the fruits of peace before doing their duty by establishing an incomplete peace or striking a partial deal that will not return the land or the rights to their rightful owners.

This is the most important reason for the continued gap between the Israeli and Syrian positions. It is true that slight progress has occurred, but it is also true that progress has not yet affected the essence of Israel's position. Israel should first declare its readiness to carry out a total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories so that we can talk about true progress in the peace process.

It is illogical to work out a peace agreement between Syria and Israel while territories in the Golan and southern Lebanon are still under Israeli occupation. It is not Syria that will relinquish its territory and right for any reason or under any circumstance. Syria entered the peace process on clear principles and out of its desire to achieve a true peace that will return its territory and rights and preserve its dignity.

All these facts are known well by Israel, the U.S. Administration, the Russian sponsor, as well as the whole world, which supports Syria's position because it is based on justice and the international community's resolutions. Peace is not difficult to achieve in light of this Syrian trend, but it requires a true will from Israel and a more effective role from the United States so that the peace train can move toward its desired goal. Otherwise, more efforts and time will be wasted at Israel's closed door.

Defense Minister on Need for Golan Withdrawal

JN1610172494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, our Air Force and Air Defense forces this morning marked the 48th anniversary of their establishment. Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, represented al-Asad in the celebration. [passage omitted]

Talas delivered a speech in which he tackled current efforts to bring about a just peace in the region. He stressed Syria's firm position toward the peace process, and said it was based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the principle of exchanging land for peace, which means a total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

Talas also referred to Israel's attempts to circumvent the resolutions of international legitimacy by pursuing the policy of exchanging roles among the Israeli leaders with the aim of weakening the issue, avoiding any announcement of total withdrawal from the Golan and the rest of the occupied Arab territories, and hinting to the world public that the issue is confined to the extent and duration of the partial withdrawal.

He then quoted the symbol leader and struggler, Hafiz al-Asad, as saying that Syria knows that its position is strong, that we will not abandon our rights, and that no one can achieve peace with Syria without taking into account Syria's interests and rights, foremost of which is its occupied territory. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' Returns From Visit to Beirut

JN1510211694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Beirut—His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi of Lebanon received Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' at B'abda Palace this afternoon. The meeting was attended by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, Prime Minister Rafiq al- Hariri, and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz.

Al-Shar' relayed a message from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to his brother His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi on the outcome of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's recent tour of the region.

President al-Hirawi hosted a lunch banquet in honor of Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. The banquet was attended by Birri, al-Hariri, and Buwayz.

At the end of the meeting, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' answered questions posed by reporters who

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gathered at the B'abda Palace, saying: I relayed a message from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi. This message falls within the framework of coordination and consultations between Syria and Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus from Beirut this evening. He was seen off by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and several senior officials of the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [passage omitted]

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Afghanistan

President Rabbani Message Marks Red Crescent Week

LD1610210594 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Oct 94

[Message by Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani on the occasion of "the special week of Red Crescent" read by Ata Mohammad Poya, head of the cultural and social services administration of the Afghan presidency in Dari; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Dear compatriots, marking the special Red Crescent Week—which occurs every year as a custom at this time—is, in fact, the marking of high human principles and virtues. Helping and giving a hand to an afflicted and needy person have been revered and praised in all human societies and historic epochs. The eminent religion of Islam, which focuses on human tranquility and prosperity, not only puts emphasis on assisting an afflicted person, but also considers it a source of great reward.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan considers as one of its main tasks the expansion of aid agencies and humanitarian services to the needy and this to be one of the major necessities under the present conditions of our country.

Dear compatriots, with the establishment of the Islamic regime in our country [words indistinct], while everyone's expectation was for a permanent and lasting peace [word indistinct] to be ensured across the country and for the people to live in security and calm and without the existence of any worry and threat. Unfortunately those groups that consider the existence of a stable and powerful Afghanistan against their [words indistinct] and group aims have brought about a series of provocations and disputes and disruptions to (?prevent) the restoration of peace and security [words indistinct].

The prevention of the supply of needed primary goods to the people cannot be interpreted as anything but hostility against the people and their tranquillity. In such a situation and a condition, and while the Islamic state vehemently makes efforts to dress the wounds of the people and to render possible assistance to them to reduce their pains and hardship, the task of humanitarian agencies—including the Afghan Red Crescent Society—is heavy and considerable. The slogan of "Give Priority to Humanity"—which rests this year at the top of the work and activities the humanitarian institutions such as the International Committee of Red Cross, International Red Crescent, and the Afghan Red Crescent—clearly manifests the high humanitarian goals of these institutions.

Attaching great value to mankind and respecting humanism, the state and the people of Afghanistan try, within the limits of their capabilities, to translate that slogan into action. Taking into account the increasing needs of our compatriots, especially the residents of Kabul, [words indistinct] of workers and officials of the Afghan Red Crescent Society in helping refugees, displaced people, and the needy is considerable and deserves to be mentioned. While I declare the start of the special Red Crescent Week across the country, I hope the Red Crescent and other humanitarian organs and foundations [word indistinct] be able to be of further service in the reduction of the pain of the compatriots. I ask the eternal God to cause a permanent and reliable peace [words indistinct] so that the people's peace will not be disrupted by rockets and artillery explosions [words indistinct].

I hope that all of this land's people live in security, peace, safety, and prosperity, without threat and pain. I wish further success for the officials and workers of the Afghan Red Crescent Society in the discharge of their high humanitarian tasks.

[Signed] Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan

Rabbani's Jets Attack Rival Positions in East Kabul

BK1810113994 Hong Kong AFP in English 1111 GMT 18 Oct 94

[By Terence White]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Oct 18 (AFP)—Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani's jets attacked the frontline positions of hostile factions in east Kabul Tuesday [18 October] in an attempt to knock out heavy-weapons sites, military sources said.

Two Soviet-made jets made four rocket attacks against Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami faction fighters, dug in on a strategic southeastern hill called Bini Hissar, where the Hezb were said to have deployed tanks and long-range rocket launchers.

"The Hezb have started bombarding Kabul from the east again, and the jets are trying to stop them," said a military officer.

It was the first jet strike in Kabul in two weeks.

By early afternoon, some two dead and 31 wounded had been brought to the two main central Kabul public hospitals, suffering shrapnel injuries from a Hezb-e Eslami bombardment.

In just half an hour, eight 122mm rockets smashed into the central Kabul shopping centres of Shah-i-Naw and Chicken Street, causing civilians to flee in panic.

The state news agency Bakhtar reported four civilians killed and 17 more wounded in Hezb rocket attacks Monday.

Massive eruptions of smoke and debris were observed on Bini Hissar following one jet strike, and huge mushroom clouds were seen rising from the direction of south

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Kabul, where it is believed Hezb-e Eslami positions were also bombed by pro-Rabbani jets.

The eastern frontlines have been relatively silent for the past month, during which the focus of factional fighting shifted to the southwest of the capital, the stronghold of Kabul's Shiite population.

In the last week there has been a lull in the southwest fighting, where Hezb-e Eslami and their Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat allies are battling a joint force of pro-Rabbani fighters.

Fighting still continues around the Kabul University, an area under heavy bombardment by Wahdat, from where civilians pushing hand-carts loaded with the basic necessities for survival were seen evacuating their homes.

Neither the United Nations-sponsored peace talks in Quetta, Pakistan nor the mojahedin leaders' meeting with Rabbani in the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad have yet come up with a compromise formula that can silence the guns in Kabul.

Hekmatyar has reportedly spurned any dialogue with Rabbani and the others at Jalalabad because they reject Hezb-e Eslami's alliance with the former pro-communist militia boss, Uzbek General Abdul Rashid Dostam.

The issue of Dostam's communist past, however, is not the crucial stumbling block to peace in Afghanistan, as he was Rabbani's ally until his aborted coup attempt in January this year.

Rather, it is the inability of the mojahedin leaders themselves to end their personal animosities and sit together and agree on a formula for power-sharing, observers here said.

Rabbani is still in Jalalabad, amid reports in Pakistan that UN special envoy Mahmoud Mestiri plans to make a visit to the city.

Bangladesh

Ziaur Rahman Calls For SAARC-ASEAN Link

BK1410013194 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Ziaur Rahman has said that the greatest demand of the present time is to establish an institutional linkage between the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] and the ASEAN with a view to increasing cooperation between the two regions. Addressing a news conference in Kuala Lumpur today, she described Malaysia as an influential ASEAN member and added that this country can take the initiative to establish link. She requested that the prime minister of Malaysia, Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, to discuss this issue with the other member countries of the ASEAN forum. Begum Khaleda Ziaur Rahman said that as the current chairperson of the SAARC, she would hold talks with the other member nations of the SAARC on the issue of establishing relationship with the ASEAN. Giving a brief outline of the SAARC, Begum Khaleda Ziaur Rahman said that all the seven member countries of this regional forum recognize the importance of regional cooperation for the development and eradication of poverty from the region. She said that the South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement aims at increasing trade within the SAARC region and outside. Describing Malaysia as a new economic power of Asia, the prime minister said that Bangladesh hopes that Malaysia will play a greater role for achieving our common objectives of ensuring peace and progress.

Emphasizing the need for closer economic cooperation between Bangladesh and Malaysia, Ziaur Rahman said that it is necessary to forge closer relations between the businessmen of the two countries with a view to increasing trade and investment. She called upon Malaysian investors, businessmen, and industrialists to take advantage of the encouragement and facilities being provided by Bangladesh in the fields of trade and investment. Ziaur Rahman giving a brief description of her official visit to Malaysia said the two countries will frequently exchange views with a view to expanding the spheres of cooperation and understanding. Referring to her talks with Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, she said that they held talks on bilateral issues including boosting trade and investment, and supply of Bangladeshi manpower to Malaysia. In reply to a question, Ziaur Rahman said that she has given a proposal to the prime minister of Malaysia to recruit doctors, engineers, teachers, and other professionals from Bangladesh. She said that the prime minister of Malaysia has informed her that he will welcome professionals from Bangladesh. Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman and Labor and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan were also present at the news conference.

India

Features of New Credit Policy Measures Viewed

BK1810071194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 18 Oct 94

[Commentary by Shyama Prasad]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As the country's economy is taking off on the wheels of the new liberalized economic policies, the role of the Reserve Bank of India [RBI] has become critical. It has been announcing several policy initiatives to balance various emerging demands of the economy. The net foreign assets of the RBI showed an increase of about 15,600 crore rupees this year as against a rise of about 4,000 crores during the same period last year. Aggregate deposits of scheduled commercial banks showed a growth of over 35,000 crore rupees upto September this year as compared to an increase of over 23,000 crore rupees in the corresponding period last year.

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Keeping all this in view, the RBI yesterday announced its credit policy. The governor of the bank, Dr. C. Rangarajan, has highlighted the urgent need to control the monetary expansion in the country to achieve the objective of reducing the inflation rate by 4 percentage points during the current financial year. The RBI will undertake active open market operations and initiate other measures to control monetary expansion. The credit policy per se is on the mold of the liberalized economic policies involving deregulation of interest rates. It also promises more freedom to the banking sector. Scheduled commercial banks have now been allowed to fix their own lending rates for loans over 2 lakh rupees. The lending rates for loans between 25,000 to 2 lakh rupees have been reduced by 13.5 percent. The statutory liquidity ratio is also being reduced.

Another measure that has been announced is reduction of interest rates on savings deposits from the existing 5 percent to 4.5 percent. Could be that this measure will improve the profitability of the banks to some extent. The cooperative banks, too, have been deregulated and given freedom to fix the lending and deposit rates with the prescription that the minimum lending rate should be 12 percent. Control on urban cooperative banks, which are comparatively at an advantageous position, will, however, continue. The RBI is also no more in favor of wooing the nonresident depositors. The interest rates for both term and savings deposits for Nonresident External Rupees Accounts have been reduced. The scheduled commercial banks have also been asked to maintain a cash reserve ratio of 7.5 percent on liabilities under the Foreign Currency Nonresident Account system. The policies announced by the apex bank seem to be aimed at promoting a GDP [Gross Domestic Product] growth rate of around 5.5 percent during the current year. The bank was encouraged in announcing the policies on the face of a favorable agricultural outlook and signs of industrial recovery to around 7 percent.

Editorial Views U.S.-China Accord on M-11 Missiles

BK1410155894 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 8 Oct 94 p 13

[Editorial: "Saying 'No' to Pak"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The agreement between China and the United States prohibiting Beijing's sale of M-11 missiles to Pakistan is the fulfillment of a major American goal of preventing a Confucian-Islamic strategic axis from developing. China's acceptance of the U.S. definition of the M-11 missiles that they violate the norms of the Missile Technology Control Regime, MTCR, should now ensure that these missiles and related technology would not be available also to Iran, Syria, Libya, and Iraq. Saudi Arabia possesses intermediate range missiles, but perhaps Washington has an unwavering faith in Riyadh not becoming part of an Islamic-Confucian gang-up. With the latest agreement, American hopes have risen that with both Russia and China having formally accepted the MTCR regime its proliferation objectives would finally become achievable. Pakistan in many ways is key to U.S. non-proliferation goals. With the Sino-U.S. pact, U.S. hopes would soar that missile non- proliferation in South Asia would be achieved soon. If Pakistan's missile development programme receives a serious blow, it would be forced to evaluate its nuclear schedule as well. The expensive and far more sophisticated missile capability is essential for a nuclear programme for, without an intercontinental delivery system, a nuclear arsenal becomes quite irrelevant. The Sino-U.S. agreement thus may compel Pakistan to revert to its earlier strategy of meeting Indian threats with the aid of conventional arms. Washington has already hinted that it would review its suspended military ties with Pakistan in the sphere of conventional weapons if Islamabad decided to promote U.S. nonproliferation goals in South Asia.

It would be naive for India to feel superficially pleased that the M-11 missiles will not reach Pakistan. China's consent will make it easier for the U.S. to mount pressure on India for not deploying the Prithvi [earth] missiles to hit targets in Pakistan. More than that, Washington will have strong arguments to coerce India into further slowing down the development of the Agni [fire] missile. Having compelled Russia earlier to renege on its contract with India for selling cryogenic engine technology the U.S. has now forced China to perform a similar feat, on both occasions threatening to withdraw cooperation in economic and high technology areas. The moral from the two events is that depending upon trusted friends in key military spheres is imprudent if American judgment on such relationships is hostile. The absence of M-11 missiles on Pakistan territory can be of only temporary comfort to India. It cannot but accelerate its missiles development programme to graduate into an intercontinental level of capability. Only that can blunt the edge of a threat which Pakistan is likely to pose with the U.S.-supplied conventional weapons and Islamabad's indigenous development of a missile delivery system for warheads with mass destruction ability.

Iran

U.S. Warships Called Threat to Gulf Shipping

NC1610171994 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 5 Oct 94 p 3

[IRNA Report]

[FBIS Translated Text] A military official of the Islamic Republic of Iran has warned the United States to halt its violations and illegal moves in the Persian Gulf.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran recently objected through official channels to the provocative actions and untimely maneuvers of U.S. warships against Iranian vessels and helicopters.

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This military official added: Iran considers the illegal actions of the United States as hampering the free passage of vessels in the waters of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

Meanwhile, a professor of international relations who is following the developments in the Persian Gulf region told IRNA: The U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf threatens the security of airline flights and passenger shipping routes in the region. Everyone knows that all the guarantees in this regard are devoid of validity.

He added: Following the military actions of the United States and its Western allies against Iraq during the oil war, the United States and Britain are making intensive efforts to perpetuate the atmosphere of tension and insecurity in the Persian Gulf in order to justify their military presence in the region.

He referred to the U.S. warship which downed an Iranian passenger plane in 1988 in the Persian Gulf waters and said: The U.S. and British military maneuvers in the Persian Gulf waters and the flights of their helicopters and airplanes are a threat to thousands of passengers who pass through this area. Recently, Iran's permanent UN representative sent an official letter to the UN secretary general protesting against U.S. actions in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman region.

UN Resolution Said To Retain U.S. Interests

LD1610124194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1100 GMT 16 Oct 94

[Unattribed commentary: "The New Security Coucil Resolution on Iraq and Kuwait"]

[FBIS Translated Text] While Baghdad has issued withdrawal orders to the last units of its Presidential Guard and has called them back to their former positions, the American carrier George Washington has entered the Persian Gulf on the pretext of confronting Iraq. The carrier, which was stationed in the Mediterranean, south of Italy, set off for the Persian Gulf after the new American military expedition in this region. The George Washington carries more than 5,000 troops and 80 warplanes.

On the other hand, after a visit by the Russian foreign minister to Iraq and his talks with that country's officials, Baghdad announced that it recognizes Kuwaiti sovereignty and respects its borders, yet America presented a new resolution at the Security Council limiting the sovereignty of the Iraqi Government, still using the pretext of checking Iraqi threats. The resolution proposed the creation of a restricted ground area in southern Iraq. The adoption of the draft resolution faced strong opposition from Russia, France, and China. That was why America, by amending it, proposed the creation of a disarmed area in southern Iraq. The latter draft resolution was eventually adopted a few hours ago by a decisive majority, despite some opposition.

The present resolution calls for the withdrawal of Iraqi armored and heavy forces from the south of the country and an undertaking by the Iraqi Government to seek permission from the UN secretary general for any troop movement in the south.

American measures after the Iraqi withdrawal announcement depict America's hidden objectives. This country, which seeks to maintain its presence in the Persian Gulf region, is trying to find a pretext to be present in the region by raising the issue of threats in the region. That is why it opposes the lifting of sanctions against Iraq and endeavors to introduce Iraq as a constant threat, even though it was weakened considerably after the oil war. By this measure, America, while dragging the regional states behind it in line with its interests, and its sale of arms to the region, gains control over countries needing Persian Gulf oil.

What is certain is that the presence in the Persian Gulf of America and other powers is not in the interest of the regional states. The presence of this country in the region will neither restore peace and stability to the region nor safeguard the interests of the regional states. It is only through cooperation among the regional states and by shunning adventurism that peace and stability can be achieved and the interests of the people of the region safeguarded.

U.S. Said Taking Advantage of 'Saber-Rattling'

LD1610211094 Tehran IRNA in English 2023 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 16, IRNA—An English-language daily Sunday commented on Iraqi Government announcement that it is ready to accept Kuwaiti definition of the Iraq-Kuwait border if the sanctions on Iraq are lifted.

Referring to remarks made by the U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry on settlement of U.S. Air Force unit in the region, "TEHRAN TIMES" wrote that for a long time the U.S. has tried to assert its presence in the Persian Gulf region so that it would play a major role in its security.

The U.S. wants to demonstrate to the regional countries that without its powerful presence, the region will not be secure, it noted.

"The Iraq-Kuwait border dispute provides the United States with an excuse to exercise its sabre-rattling", the paper said adding that, the U.S. has no intention of overthrowing Saddam Husayn whom it could topple in the blinking of an eye.

Since Saddam is known to be unreliable, he might forget his promises and take over Kuwaiti territory whenever he feels he is strong enough to do so, the editorial said,

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adding that with respect to the treaty between Iran and Iraq signed in 1975, Saddam did just that.

The countries in the region must learn that the United States is after its own interests, they must realize that they will be required to bankroll the cost of the policing of the region by the U.S. which is not increasing its military presence out of any genuine concern for Arab countries, the paper wrote.

"The presence of the Yankees in the Persian Gulf region is meant to rob the regional countries of their most valuable asset: oil. By signing new contracts for the bankrupt defense industries of the U.S. They will ensure fat margins of profit for the merchants of death," it continued.

The article concluded by saying that, the Islamic Republic of Iran has always invited the regional countries to unite under the banner of Islam and to fight the intrusion and interference of the big powers which seek profit and employment for themselves, while bringing devastation for the regional people.

U.S. 'Double Standard' in Gulf Policy Assailed

LD1510153194 Tehran IRNA in English 1428 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 15, IRNA—Two Iranian dailies Saturday commented on the recent developments on Iraqi-Kuwait border and on the U.S. military build-up in the Persian Gulf.

The Persian daily "JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" said that Baghdad was being used as a tool in the hands of Western countries to attain their hegemonic goals.

The English daily "TEHRAN TIMES" in its opinion lashed out at Washington's double-standard, stressing that the U.S. should not instigate war merely to improve its economy or to preserve power balance in the region.

"JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" said in its political commentary that while Iraqi troops have started withdrawing from Kuwaiti border, U.S. mlitarymen are still pouring into the region both from air and sea.

Although the Americans themselves have got reliable information from their sources on the withdrawal of Iraqi troops, they attempt to fill Arab sheikhs with fear of Iraqi dangers in order to justify their militay presence in the Persian Gulf and also force Arab regimes to buy more weapons.

Turning to the blunders made by the Iraqi regime during the Persian Gulf war in 1991 which resulted in gathering the Arabs, Zionists and Americans in a united front and in deployment of thousands of alien forces in the region, the commentary said that the world has the right to expect recurrence of similar incidents as a result of Baghdad's seditions.

The West in general and the U.S. in particular want Saddam to remain in power because he is the only one in the region who is an arch foe of Islam and the Islamic revolution and who can tighten the West's domination over the region through his blunders, it said.

Pointing to the West's performance in the Persian Gulf for the past decade, the commentary said that the West has only worsened instability and chaos in the region, despite all its military build- up. The reason for this, it said, is that the security of every sensitive region of the world should be safeguarded by the countries of the same region and any attempt ignoring this reality is doomed to fail.

The paper concluded by quoting the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i as saying that regional countries should safeguard the security of the Persian Gulf and the global arrogance has no right to interfer in this region.

In his speech to a group of visiting people, Ayatollah Khamene'i urged the Iranian people to be on alert in view of new conspiracies being hatched by their enemies.

Commenting on the same subject, "TEHRAN TIMES" referred in its editorial to the Persian Gulf war in 1991 and asked why the then U.S. President George Bush prevented the allied forces who had the power to capture Baghdad and overthrow Saddam Husayn at that time from doing such an action.

"Surely it was not because it was against America's conscience," said the daily, "The U.S. is an expert in overthrowing leaders it does not want, and maintaining the ones it wants."

Referring to George Bush's justification that he retained Saddam Husayn to preserve the world's balance, the paper said, "It appears that, at times, insanity can bring equilibrium to the world."

Turning to the sanctions imposed on Iraq as a result of which the Iraqi people are on the verge of starvation, the paper asked why the U.N. Security Council did not reconsider the issue.

The editorial further questioned why the Iraqi people should suffer because of the irresponsible actions of their leader.

"Although Iran suffered eight years of war and losses of life and property imposed on it by Iraq, the Iranian Government does not hold the Iraqi people responsible," it said adding that Iran has called on the Security Council to lift the sanctions.

Criticizing the dual standards practised by the U.S., the paper stressed that Washington was against dictatorship in Haiti, but in favour of dictatorship in Iraq.

"A dictatorship cannot be tolerated in the Americas, because it is against U.S. interests, but in the Middle East

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dictatorship can be useful to killing some of us, blocking certain regional governments, and preserving the balance."

The article asked if the U.S. intended to trigger another war in the Middle East to the advantage of U.S. military industrial complex or for the improvement of the U.S. economy.

"Whatever the U.S. does at this point, we ask that it not set one country against another in order to preserve the balance, and not instigate war only to improve the American economy, but to do what it might deem right," said the paper questioning, "or have we humans, wallowing in our own interests, forgotten what right means."

Cost to Gulf States of Kuwait-U.S. Moves Viewed

LD1710225194 Tehran IRNA in English 2217 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA—Despite the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from its borders with Kuwait, the U.S. military intervention in the Persian Gulf region was still on.

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn rekindled the dangers of a new war in the region on October 7 by positioning about 80,000 military forces, too close for comfort along the 131 kms of the joint borders with Kuwait. He said his aim was to pressure the lifting of the United Nations economic sanctions against Iraq.

Following the end of the Iraq's six-month occupation of Kuwait after the defeat it suffered in the 1991 war, the United Nations Security Council issued Resolution 833 ruling economic sanctions against Iraq which are renewed every two months.

Iraq says the sanctions are inhuman, unjust and unprecedented in the history of the Security Council and claims that 384,000 Iraqi people have lost their lives as a result. After the Iraqi forces were positioned near the borders with Kuwait, the U.S., by manipulating the Security Council Resolution of 687, started pouring in troops and armaments into the Persian Gulf region.

According to Resolution 687 which Baghdad signed in 1991 after the Persian Gulf war, Iraq should never embark on any provocative action.

Since 7 October, the U.S. has positioned two nuclear vessels, aircraft carriers, submarines equipped with long-range missiles and 19 other vessels in Persian Gulf waters in addition to soldiers and various other armaments.

The U.S. officials claim American military forces are in the Persian Gulf to prevent another war in the region, while political observers believe that the main objective behind the massive American presence is to safeguard its vested interests and get ensure the flow of low price oil from Perisan Gulf Arab states.

The U.S. imports 9.88 million barrels of oil daily to meet 56 percent of its home demands for oil, of which 4.07 million barrels are supplied by member states of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

America's oil imports from the Persian Gulf states stand at 1.67 million barrels per day which is 19.2 percent of its total oil imports.

According to the U.S. officials, the military intrusion in the Persian Gulf has cost the country over dlrs. 2 billion, a sum which the Persian Gulf Arab states have committed themselves to pay.

The U.S. secretary of defence, William Perry, announced on October 15 that the U.S. foreces would remain in the region at least up to Christmas adding that the Persian Gulf Arab states would meet the expenditures.

During the Persian Gulf war in 1991 Saudi Arabia and Kuwait paid over dlrs. 60 billion and 47 billion respectively to the West, mostly to the U.S.

An economic affairs expert, Reza Sadr, said that paying the astronomical cost of the U.S. invasion as well as huge arms purchases after the 1991 war have caused serious economic problems for Persian Gulf Arab states especially Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

He added that Kuwait had spent dlrs. 4 billion, that is 70 percent of its total oil revenues, to strengthen its military power only in the last two years.

The sum Kuwait spent on military hardware as well as on meeting costs of the war to drive out Iraq were reasons for the country's dlrs. 6 billion budget deficit in 1994.

This budget deficit occurs at a time when Kuwait's hard currency reserves have dropped from dlrs. 100 billion in 1991 to dlrs. 61 billion this year.

Despite the fact that Saudi Arabia is exporting 8 million barrels of oil per day, the country, too, is facing various problems because of its paying the high costs of the U.S. invasion.

Another economic affairs expert, 'ali Reza'i, pointed out that Saudi Arabia had signed tens of military contracts with Western countries after the Persian Gulf war including the one with Britain worth 20 billion pounds which is the biggest arms purchase contract in history.

These were signed despite the fact that the Saudi oil revenues had dropped from dlrs. 116 billion in 1981 to dlrs. 40 billion in 1993 due to the oil price fall, he added.

Reza'i further went on to say that the economic problems had forced the Saudi officials to ask the U.S. authorities to reschedule the time for repayment of the cost of the two agreements signed by the country.

Both political and economic experts believe that cooperation among all regional countries and ending the

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territorial expansionism are the only ways to keep peace and stability in the Persian Gulf.

They opine that presence of alien forces in the Persian Gulf would further intensify tensions in the region.

The experts regret that regional countries instead of coordinating with each other to safeguard security in the sensitive waterway, are trying to increase tension and prolong conflicts in the wrong notion that this could serve their petty interests.

Iraq Said Unlikely To Attack Kuwait

NC1410181694 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Oct 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Ramifications of Iraqi Military Moves"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Iraqi regime has concentrated troops near its borders with Kuwait because it says the U.S. has insulted the Iraqi nation. It says it wants to reclaim its rights and to foil what it calls a conspiracy by the Security Council to starve the Iraqi people.

Despite the large number of elite forces the Iraqis have mobilized, it does not seem likely that they are poised to attack Kuwait.

The statement by Iraq issued on Saturday that it does not want any confrontation with the U.S., testifies to the fact that the Iraqi regime does not want to engage in any aggressive action.

The Iraqi military movements have caused certain reactions in the region, including a statement by the Zionist regime's Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. It bespeaks of worries on the part of the Zionist regime that Iraq might fire Scud missiles into Tel Aviv. The Arab governments' reactions have so far been markedly cautious. Egypt and Syria have declared that Iraq's moves only serve to exacerbate the regional crisis and will only mean a longer blockade against Iraq.

Except for Bahrain, the countries on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf are keeping silent on the Iraqi moves. But the Western countries, especially the U.S., France, and Britain, have declared that in case of Iraqi aggression they would fight the Iraqi army.

Four members of the Security Council have condemned the recent moves by Iraq and have declared their resolve to confront Iraq in case it invaded Kuwait.

The Iraqi regime perhaps knows that it does not stand a chance in its fight with the allied countries in the region which might spring into action if Iraq invades Kuwait. Iraq does not have the ability to run a war against the said countries at the present time. In case of war, a much more strict economic blockade will tighten the noose around the neck of the famished Iraqi nation.

Any military action by Iraq will only provide the West, especially U.S. forces, with an excuse to hold sway in the area.

The whole world knows that the extreme pressures on the desolate Iraqi nation is unjustified. The way to show sympathy with this forsaken nation is to gradually lift the blockade. The Security Council could have gradually lifted the blockade and is still capable of doing it. But the U.S. influence in the Security Council has resulted in a timid acceptance of the U.S. programs by the other four members, even though France has been reluctant to [sentence as published]. The pro-Zionist and pro-American news agencies have all of a sudden begun reporting on the missile technology of Iraq and its weapons of mass destruction. These rumors will only serve to influence the judgment of the Security Council on Iraq. The continuation of the sanctions will only mean continuation of the Iraqi military threat which will in turn justify increased U.S. military presence. Let us hope that the Iraqi regime will be wiser so that it will prevent further hardship for the Iraqi people.

Va'ezi on Agreements Signed With Russia

LD1510182894 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran and Russia have signed 13 agreements on bilateral cooperation. Speaking to our reporter on his return from Moscow, where he attended a meeting of five Caspian Sea littoral countries, Mr. Mahmud Va'ezi, our country's deputy foreign minister, said: The two countries have signed documents relating to cooperation in commercial, scientific, technical, health, cultural, and parliamentary fields and on border cooperation. The two countries' new relations will be shaped by these documents. He said: Issues relating to exploiting the Caspian Sea's resources were discussed in the Moscow meeting and it was decided that a committee, embracing the five countries of Iran, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Azerbaijan, will be formed to delineate the legal and scientific bases for future cooperation.

U.S. Pressure on Russian Arms Sales Seen Futile

NC1510182894 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 2 Oct 94 p 15

[Political commentary: "A Fruitless Agreement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to Arabic publications, during their recent meeting in Washington, the heads of Russia and the United States discussed the dimensions of Moscow's relations with Tehran, including the sale of Russian-manufactured weaponry to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During this meeting, Russian President Yeltsin was apparently subjected to pressure from U.S. officials to revoke his agreement to sell Russian arms to Iran. Moscow did not give any categorical pledge to the U.S. Administration regarding the sale of Russian arms to Tehran and there has not been any report in this regard either.

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Such pressure continues even though the Russians and Americans are well aware that such sanctions have never placed Iran in a situation where it cannot obtain the weapons it needs. The experience of the eight years of the imposed war and the multilateral military support to Baghdad by the United States, Russia, and the influential European governments should have convinced Yeltsin, Clinton, and other presidents—who until yesterday were Baghdad's allies in its belligerence and aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran—that Islamic Iran knows ways of filling its military needs. Such restrictions do not create any problems for an independent country to obtain military weaponry.

Today, we are living in a world fraught with economic rivalries, in which political alliances and profitable economic rivalry are diametrically opposed concepts. No government is prepared to forfeit economic gains for the sake of political agreements with its allies. It would be more logical to state that economic factors have preponderance over political factors today, as basically, political power fosters economic strength. One cannot find a powerful government with increasing political clout for influencing balances which has a weak and chaotic economy.

In the light of this relationship, every government seeks to strengthen its political bases by means of boosting its economic structure. For arms manufacturing countries, weapons exports are of special importance for the strengthening of their respective economies. It is for this reason that economic exchanges are rarely influenced by weak political relations.

As regards the sale of Russian weaponry to Iran, the Russians are the ones who have set their sights on the benefits accruing from military exports and they are the ones who need them. In the current circumstances, the export of arms is one of Moscow's main sources of foreign exchange. This is borne out by the fact that in recent years the Russians have lost the luxury of choosing their buyers and they sell arms to any government or political entity interested in importing their weapons. That is why Russia is selling arms to Pakistan and India at the same time.

Accordingly, if the ban on arms sales to Iran causes any losses, the Russians would be the ones affected because the Islamic Republic of Iran has gained beneficial experiences in the past decade as regards the procurement of weapons on the international markets.

Improved Prospects Seen for Ties

LD1610104194 Tehran IRNA in English 1035 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 16, IRNA—The morning English-language daily "IRAN NEWS" in its editorial here Sunday touched on Tehran-Moscow ties and said, "Moscow has now clearly realized that Western countries are fabricating the supposed threat from Iran solely for the purpose of gaining footholds for their own influence in the region".

The daily referred to the presence of the Western oil companies in Azerbaijan and other places in the Caucasia and the Central Asia and wrote that this presence points up the West's attempts to gain influence in the region.

Touching on the 2-day meeting of representatives from five Caspian Sea littoral states in Moscow during which the participants reached agreement on drawing up a joint document on the Caspian problems, the daily said that the agreement relates mainly to mutual ties between Iran and Russia.

Representatives of the Caspian Sea littoral states, Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, studied and finalized the draft of the charter of an organization for cooperation among the countries bordering the Caspian Sea.

According to the daily political observers hold the view that the two sides are now in a position to resume new ties of cordiality that are based on an understanding of the regional situations, of their respective interests and red lines.

Consequently the informed observers regard "extremely significant" the upcoming trip by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Moscow in December as well as the visit by Russian president to Tehran early next year, the daily concluded.

Besharati, Pakistani Official Discuss Borders

LD1710172394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Zafar Iqbal (Ratur), the Pakistani deputy interior minister, who is in Tehran, met Interior Minister Besharati this afternoon and discussed mutual border and security issues.

Referring to the extensive and long-standing ties between the two countries, Mr. Ratur commented on the importance of the common borders and border security. He said: We are ready for any form of cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning security, law enforcement, and borders.

Expressing satisfaction about the ties between Iran and Pakistan, Mr. Besharati described as very fruitful today's talks between the Iranian and the Pakistani delegations.

Referring to the situation in the region, he criticized the overt military presence of America and its Western allies in the Persian Gulf. He added: The security of the region should be maintained by the governments in the region.

Lifting of Israel Boycott by GCC Viewed

NC1510213194 Tehran SALAM in Persian 10 Oct 94 p 12

[Unattributed commentary: "A New Game!"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] This is how the game is orchestrated. The regimes of the Persian Gulf littoral states—who have to comply with the commitments they made in return for of U.S. support during the Persian Gulf war and the occupation of Kuwait—proceed step by step to create conditions for normalization and direct talks between the Zionist regime and the Arab governments, but with much caution.

This is because for years they have been bandying their claims of struggle against the Zionist regime—especially Saddam's litany- chanting against Israel during the oil war—and they fear the reactions of the people and revolutionary governments. Eventually, the moment of truth arrives and there is no recourse but to take the first step toward a turning point—that is, the announcement that the economic boycott against Israel is to be lifted.

The meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] Foreign Ministers on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session and the presence of the U.S. secretary of state was an opportune moment for bringing this game to its culmination and two alarm bells were falsely sounded to divert public opinion and mitigate the negative burden of this action. These are:

The First Bell: Iran

The repeated mention of Iran as a danger in the region is not enough and therefore the conflagration of combat had to be ignited with claims regarding the islands. The speech by the United Arab Emirates foreign minister and the support of the shaykhs provided a wonderful opportunity. Once again, the issue of the islands was given extensive coverage on the pages of the regional and Western newspapers. This time, in order to impart a more serious tone to the issue, the U.S. ambassador to Kuwait entered the fray. This served to attract a great deal of attention.

The Second Bell: Iraq

In order to complete the game, Iraq was sought out. Military moves inside Iraq's borders—and it is not known whether they actually took place or not—were used as a pretext to begin the carnival [preceding word in English]. The statements by the White House, the shaykh of Kuwait, the Security Council and so on completed the political farce; and the redeployment of the U.S. fleet to the Persian Gulf as well as the propagandist activity served to increase the tempo of the play.

What will happen after this hue and cry? On the one hand, the sanctions against the Zionist regime will be lifted, and on the other everyone will be pleased that a new crisis over the issue of the islands or claims by Iraq and Kuwait has been averted. Thus the game will come to an end.

IAEA Urged To Force Israel To Join Nuclear Treaty

LD1810095294 Tehran IRNA in English 0723 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, New York, Oct. 18, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran here Monday called upon the international community, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in particular, to force the Zionist regime to join the Non- Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Speaking at the General Assembly, convened to discuss the IAEA annual report, Iran's Deputy Permanent U.N. Representative Gholam- 'Ali Khoshroo warned against non-peaceful nuclear activities of the Zionist regime.

"A matter of great concern for Middle Eastern countries is the continued operation of the UN-safeguarded, antiquated, and entirely non-peaceful Demona nuclear reactor in Israel," Khoshroo said.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as the country that initiated in 1974 the proposal to declare the Middle East as a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (NWFZ), continues to support the initiative and is prepared to consider any constructive idea for its actual realization under U.N. auspices, he noted.

"As long as Israel, with full support of certain powers refuses to join NPT and IAEA safeguards regime, the Middle East Nuclear Free Weapon Zone remains a distant goal", Khoshroo said.

Touching on the decision of the 38th session of the General Conference of IAEA to restore technical assistance to Israel, he stressed that such a measure is nothing but a reward to a nuclear proliferator and a tacit approval of the said regime's access to nuclear weapons.

Reiterating Iran's firm commitments to the NPT and its full cooperation with the IAEA, Khoshroo applauded the IAEA's technical assistance to its member states to make peaceful use of nuclear energy in agricultural, industrial and medical fields.

Meanwhile, he added, certain atomic and industrial countries are trying to prevent IAEA to fulfil its commitments regarding certain member countries including Iran whose peaceful nuclear program has been confirmed by the agency.

Referring to the 1995 review and extention conference of NPT, the Iranian envoy stressed that the conference provides a good opportunity to address the violations of provisions of the treaty by nuclear weapons states and other industrial countries.

He also expressed hope that the IAEA and U.N. secretariat based on the decisions of the preparatory committees of the review conference prepare comprehensive documents on the implementation of the provisions of the preamble and operative parts of NPT.

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Turkish-Israeli Security Agreement Viewed

NC1610202494 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 6 Oct 94 p 15

[Unattributed commentary: "The Secularists—Propagators of the Culture and Policy of Zionism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The chief of the Zionist regime's police department has arrived in Ankara on an official visit. His Turkish counterpart welcomed him at Ankara airport and stated that security and international issues would be discussed in the course of this visit.

This visit comes a few days after the signing of an agreement on joint cooperation on matters of security and tourism between the officials of the Ankara and Tel Aviv regimes.

There is no doubt that these visits resulted from the desires of both sides, but they only serve to boost the influence of the Zionists in the political and security field in the region. It is said that the factions of the political parties in power in Turkey, which are comprised of prejudiced secularists, are knowingly pursuing a policy of expanding the Zionists' influence in cultural, political, and security matters even though they are aware of the Zionists' objectives in broadening relations with Ankara. The dangers stemming from these efforts have scarcely been heeded by the ruling echelons.

In consort with the Arab regimes of the Middle East, in the recent years Turkey has tried not to lag behind the caravan of the compromising regimes. Ankara mustered all its resources so that it could play a pivotal part as mediator in the trend toward compromise between Arabs and Zionists. However, despite these efforts, Ankara has apparently been relegated to the sidelines of these developments and is seen as inconsequential for the regional balances.

Of the three countries that have given in since the end to the Kuwait crisis and the oil war, the Zionists have not made as many trips—overt and covert, invited and uninvited, official and unofficial—to any other country. However, these visits have apparently culminated in unilateral benefits to the Tel Aviv regime, and the Turkish Government has won nothing in the chess moves in the regional political crisis.

The visit to Turkey by the police chief of the occupied-Jerusalem regime, which comes on the eve of the visit by Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller to occupied Palestine, is geared more to benefit the domination-and-hegemony-seeking foreign policy of the Zionists than the Turks.

The trend of commercial cooperation between Turkey and the Tel Aviv regime has strengthened amazingly in recent years; and political cooperation continues to broaden between the two countries. Nothing is gained from this political cooperation except that Turkey's resources are being utilized to implement the anti-Islamic designs of the occupied-Jerusalem regime and to propagate Zionist culture in the region.

The insistence of both sides on the need to boost cooperation in security matters and the agreements signed earlier between the officials of the two countries confirms this statement. Ankara's efforts to expand relations with the Zionists has drawn a negative reaction from Turkish society, and the opposition of the Turkish people has been a constant obstacle on this path.

Agreement on Return of Afghan Refugees Signed

LD1610173994 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] On the basis of an agreement reached between Iran, Afghanistan, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], 500,000 Afghan refugees will return home by the month of Dey [22 December to 20 January] of next year.

Mr. Hoseyni, the Foreign Ministry director general for foreign nationals affairs, denied the reports by some foreign mass media to the effect that the Afghan refugees will be forced to return home. He said: On the basis of the agreement reached between Iran, Afghanistan, and the United Nations, the Afghan refugees continue to return home voluntarily. During the past three months, over 30,000 Afghan refugees have returned home under the supervision of the UNHCR along the border. They each receive some cash and non-cash assistance. The fact that the UNHCR Geneva session praised Iran's performance in this connection proves our point.

GATT Said 'Only Alternative' To Increase Exports

LD1610163494 Tehran IRNA in English 1019 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 16, IRNA—Minister of Mines and Metals Hoseyn Mahluji here Saturday said that membership in General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT) is the only alternative to increase exports of Iranian goods.

Speaking to reporters, the minister described GATT as a long barrier blocking the way of exports to other nations adding that the obstacle could be removed only through membership in the organization.

Referring to IRAN's outstanding improvement in the export of aluminium, copper ore and steel, Mahluji said that failure in becoming a GATT member would block the way to the export of the said metals to 124 GATT member countries which hold 90 percent of world's trade.

The minister also underlined the need for more foreign investment and said that most of the developing countries have now realized that in order to abandon their single-product economy they must take advantage of

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their own potentials or foreign capitals if their domestic resources could not meet their demands.

Even the developed countries including the U.S., Japan and Germany are in quest of external capital, Mahluji added.

He noted that any hesitation in Iran's membership in GATT would face the country with economic problems which could not be easily solved.

Effects of Joining Studied

LD1510173494 Tehran IRNA in English 1653 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 15, IRNA—Iran accounts for 10 percent of the total exports of the Middle East and absorbs 20 percent of the total imports to the region, while the share of Middle Eastern countries in the world foreign trade was 3.5 to 4 percent, according to a senior official of the Mines and Metals Ministry.

Speaking at a one-day seminar on consequences of Iran's joining the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT), Deputy Minister for Majlis Affairs, Reza Ashraf Semnani, said the general preferential system of GATT would limit Iran's annual carpet exports to 246 tons, when the country presently enjoys carpet exports of 23,500 tons.

He pointed to the raw materials required for consumer goods, energy, manpower, the situation of the region, the system of the country, and information and technology as parameters to be dealt with in relation to joining the GATT.

Punishment for Profiteers, Hoarders Increased

LD1510163494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1340 GMT 15 Oct 94

[From the "Press Review" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The punitive measures declared for profiteers and hoarders include cash fines, imprisonment, confiscation of property, and execution.

The above news, which has been announced by the justice minister, has been printed in today's morning and evening papers bearing large headlines.

KEYHAN writes: The edicts for the punishment of profiteers, hoarders, and saboteurs are issued on the basis of the Government Discretionary Laws [Qavanin-e Ta'azirat-e Hokumati] that can result in the imprisonment, confiscation of property, and execution of those who convicted.

KEYHAN quotes the justice minister and writes: The cases of profiteers will be dealt with out of turn.

Regulations Hailed

NC1810095694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 18 Oct 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ayatollah Yazdi, the head of the judiciary, announced yesterday that to protect the interests of the system and defend the rights of the people, the Ministry of Justice would deal very strongly with profiteering hoarders and those who generate inflation and high prices. The head of the judiciary, who was addressing a gathering of the judiciary officials, stated that the emphasis in this major campaign of tackling profiteers was to penalize those who were primarily responsible.

The remarks by the highest official of the judiciary just as society, government, and the Majles are preparing to crack down on spurious inflation and spiraling prices once again indicates the serious and categorical position of the system's officials in upholding the rights of the consumers against all kinds of extortion and profiteering.

It is worth mentioning that since 10 days ago, when President Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke of the government's intention to reduce the prices of goods and products, the trend of a decrease in prices has begun. The prices of cement, protein products, foodgrains, household appliances, and staple goods such as sugar and shortening can be mentioned in this regard. Even though the systematization of the government's program for the implementation of the government's laws on penalties will begin in the next few days, the reduction of prices in the past few days indicates the trust and the readiness of the public more than anything else. This process is accompanied by a psychological decrease in demand on the one hand, and the supply of some of the goods against coupons on the other.

Thus, economic experts believe that with the implementation of the government's penalty laws, prices will be reduced even further. Knowledgeable economic sources are of the opinion that the current experiment on combating high prices and profiteering is very different from earlier experiences in this regard. Presently, in addition to the people's willingness on the part of the people who were at the end of their endurance because of the extortion by the economic miscreants, the Majles, the government, and the judiciary have adopted a concerted stance on the need for a serious campaign to combat high prices.

Accordingly, the president's declaration has generated a wave of support from the various sections of society all over the country and the legislature and the judiciary have announced their willingness to extend all kinds of cooperation in this regard.

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Thus, the price spiral has been stemmed and in most cases, a fall of nearly 20 percent has been registered in the prices of essential goods in some cases. Some important steps remain until the success of the programs for combating high prices can be ensured. First, while providing for the supply of the goods needed, the government should take the first step to boost indigenous production or the imports of essential goods wherever necessary, in order to increase the availability of these goods. Fortunately, these steps have been initiated with the allocation of credit for these goods, the announcement of the sugar and shortening quotas, and of the retail prices for milk and cement.

In addition, the directors of government units can take the initiative in reducing prices, and by supervision over a suitable distribution of their products, they can participate in this national effort. The Islamic Majles and the judiciary have a major share in this drive. The approval of appropriate legal instruments by the Majles and their decisive implementation by the judiciary will completely prevent the continuation of the disruptive activities of these unscrupulous elements and will regulate the distribution system, and ensure the lawful rights of the consumers and the more vulnerable strata of society.

200-Tonne Oil Platform Constructed at Bushehr

LD1710160094 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The construction of an oil platform at the port of Bushehr has been completed. The platform is 54 meters high and weighs 200 tonnes. It will soon be installed in the Foruzan oil region. Once it is installed extraction of oil from four oil wells and the transportation of the oil to an underwater mother well will start.

All the construction work on the oil platform was carried out by Iranian experts and workers.

Pakistan

New Navy Chief To Take Over 9 Nov

BK1310025994 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Vice Admiral Mansurul Haq has been promoted to the post of an admiral. He will take over as the chief of the Pakistan Navy on 9 November. Haq, who is currently the chairman of the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation, has the honor of receiving Hilal-i-Imtiaz-military and Sitara-i-Basalat awards.

Alternative Source for Defense Purchases Favored

BK1610104294 Lahore JANG in Urdu 15 Oct 94 p 14

[Editorial: "Cabinet Defense Committee's Meeting"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that the people, government, and the military enjoy a complete identity of views on national issues. She made these observations while presiding over an important meeting of the cabinet Defense Committee. The meeting was addressed by both the president and the prime minister. The two leaders declared that the government gives top priority to the defense of the motherland and will not compromise national interests in any way. The United States has been told that there will be no compromise on the nuclear program or any other issue having a bearing on Pakistan's security as a quid pro quo for the F-16 aircraft. According to responsible sources, it was also decided at the meeting that the country will not depend on any single nation for the purchase of defense equipment in future.

The importance of the Defense Committee's meeting can be assessed from the fact that it was attended not only by the president but also the governor and the chief minister of the North-West Frontier Province and several other personalities who are not members of this committee. The prime minister's indication about the complete identity of views existing between the people, government, and the armed forces on national issues reinforces the view that the armed forces are firm in their commitment not to interfere in politics and to maintain views that are identical to government policy on important national issues. After the way certain political circles had recently talked about determining the role of the military in politics, it had become necessary for the prime minister to categorically express her views on this issue to remove misunderstandings, doubts, and suspicions created by these circles.

The present government has always attached top priority to national defense. The recent deal with France to purchase submarines, the purchase of aircraft from China for the air force, and the preparation of the lists of defense equipment with the advice of the military are some measures that prove that the government is not oblivious of the country's defense. These measures also answer the allegations of certain quarters who have been carrying out a baseless propaganda campaign against the government on Kashmir and Pakistan's nuclear program, saying that it has entered into a deal with the United States on these two issues. The president and the prime minister spoke on these two issues in the presence of the Defense Committee.

The decision to look for an alternative source for the purchase of weapons and equipment is realistic, because we have had a very bitter experience by relying solely on the United States in the past. Looking at the details of the Defense Committee's meeting, it is not difficult to deteremine that the country's political and military leaderships are fully aware of the regional situation, the inherent dangers and the requirements of national security and that there is a complete identity of views and consensus between them on national issues.

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Sri Lanka

New Constitution To Abolish Executive Presidency

BK1710113694 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The new constitution for Sri Lanka will be formulated before July next year. The aim is to do away with the prevailing executive presidency and rest full authority in parliament and other related institutions. At the same time, the Constitution would also include wider safeguards of human rights. The minister of justice and constitutional affairs, Professor G.L. Peiris, outlined these measures at a news conference held in Colombo yesterday. He said that the pledge given by the People's Alliance to the people will be redeemed fully. This issue is being clearly explained during the presidential [election] campaign by the People's Alliance. Professore Peiris explained that the aim of the new government is to vest the powers of the executive presidency in parliament and to abolish the executive presidency as soon as possible.

A journalist raised the question as to why a decision was taken to conduct the presidential poll when the UNP [United National Party] had announced that it wanted this system abolished. In reply, Professor Peiris said that it was meaningless to bring an amendment to the Constitution only to change the system of the executive presidency without measures aimed at providing parliament with wider powers. A special parliamentary select committee has been appointed to accomplish this task. The minister said the proposals of the People's Alliance on constitutional amendments will be forwarded to this committee on the 24th of next month. Among the three major proposals will be the abolition of the executive presidency. Another proposal would seek to further strengthen the clauses contained in the Constitution on human rights. Professor Peiris added that the third proposal would empower the Supreme Court to cancel any provision in a bill presented to parliament which would threaten human rights.

Article Considers Peace Prospects

BK1510141094 Colombo VIRAKESARI in Tamil 2 Oct 94 p 4

[Article by Mathorupakan: "The London Conference That Exposed the Rigors of the War Experienced by the Tamil People"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] The roads to peace have always been perilous. It is not an easy task to achieve peace overnight. Peace can be established only after crossing several hurdles and obstacles. Such a situation is being experienced now in Sri Lanka.

The events of the past weeks have proved clearly that it is not easy to produce a cease-fire or create rapprochement through subsequent dialogue.

There may be several reasons behind this state of affairs, but the previous government's attempts to halt terrorism through military action constitutes one of them. Although there has been a change of government, there is no major change in the approach of those at the helm of public affairs toward resolving the ethnic conflict.

The delay in bringing about a cease-fire and the negative momentum of the peace talks indicate this. Therefore, amid attacks and counterattacks, the "cost" of peace is increasing steadily. Nevertheless, the government, which says that it will restore peace "at any cost," has to face a number of obstacles in this regard. It will be all right if the government does not go to the extent of giving an eye as the price of a portrait.

Meanwhile, the government's statement that peace will be restored at any cost has created a deep sense of antagonism among the Sinhalese hardliners. A person belonging to the majority community has written in an English paper that such a referendum is held in the South, people will totally reject it. Hence, the government will lose its chances of holding talks with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE].

This article clearly indicates that behind any effort for peace, there will be pressure from racist forces.

Under these circumstances, it has been announced that the visit of the government officials to Jaffna will take place on 13 October. Although this visit was expected to take place last week, its postponement by two weeks [as published] reflects the delay in establishing peace.

The decision of Prime Minister Chandrika Bandaranaike-Kumaratunga to send an apolitical delegation to Jaffna reflects her new approach. At the same time, the LTTE is also understood to have realized the need for a fresh approach to resolve this issue.

In other words, the LTTE leaders hold that existing problems should be divided into two categories—routine problems and basic ones—and adopt appropriate measures to resolve them. Reports from Jaffna indicate that the LTTE leaders believe that under present circumstances, this step will be the most appropriate one.

They want to find a solution to the routine problems first. The routine problems are those which are the outcome of the attempts to resolve the basic problems at gun point. If the new government tries to resolve these routine problems first, people will trust it.

Only after that should the basic problems be considered. As far as those are concerned, the Tigers think that there is ample scope for finding a lasting solution to the ethnic problem when the government suggests a solution on the basis of the proposals made by the Tamil freedom fighters at the talks held in Thimpu with Indian mediation in 1985.

Forty-five days have elapsed since the People's Alliance government has come to power. So far, the government

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has been functioning well and maintaining the trust of the people in fulfilling many of their aspirations. Only this ethnic conflict is posing a challenge to the new government.

Meanwhile, the situation in the north has deteriorated to a great extent due to the war going on for four years. Devastation caused by the war, suffering, unrest, and daily problems have badly affected the northern people both physically and mentally. An important conference was held in London with a view to identify and redress the problems of these people. The conference, held 17 and 18 September, was attended by physicians from all over Europe, Tamil dignitaries, and physicians from Jaffna.

The conference was organized by the Tamil Physicians Association, the Tamil Information Center, and the California-based Tamil Refugees Rehabilitation organization. The conference deliberated in detail on the havoc created by the war. The conference, held at popular London University, was organized with the efforts of those who do not want the continuation of the devastating war.

Pointing out that the situation in Sri Lanka is gradually changing, Father Kenneth Fernando, who presided over the inaugural session of the conference, said that the prime minister is very interested in finding an immediate solution to the ethnic conflict and is working very hard to achieve it.

Fernando, who visited Jaffna twice during the past two years and met with several LTTE leaders after overcoming many impediments, was strongly criticized by Sinhalese hardliners. The previous government criticized all his peace efforts and neglected his recommendations.

Fernando disclosed at the London conference that he has been making efforts to visit Jaffna for a third time. He further said: I will continue my visits to Jaffna. I will be knocking at the door [of peace]. I hope that all those who want peace in Sri Lanka, will welcome it.

Saying that the London conference is significant, Fernando substantiated his claim by saying that both sides are taking various steps to foster goodwill. He believes that the discussions in London are quite significant, as participation by both sides in the reconstruction and rehabilitation work is also a way to build up confidence between them.

Dr. V. Sivapadasundaram, chairman of the session, also expressed his views strongly on several important issues. He said: Wherever a war breaks out, it causes ruin and devastation. Subsequently, it gives rise to human suffering. Suffering cannot be assessed easily. Although we are not directly connected with the war, we are bound to mitigate the suffering of those affected by the war.

As pointed out by Sivapadasundaram, this conference considered ways to mitigate the suffering of the war victims in Sri Lanka, who are in a difficult position.

Dr. Karunyan Arulanandam, Dr. Varadakumar, Dr. Ratneswaran, and Dr. Sivanandan—all from California—took a leading role in the conference.

A 14-member group from Sri Lanka also participated in the conference. Dr. Nachinarkiniyan, Dr. Mrs. Deivendra, Dr. Mrs. Kanakaratnam, Dr. Daya Somasundaram, and Dr. Sivarajan also participated in the conference and highlighted the plight of the victims.

Hampton Mayor (Billbutt), who attended the conference as a special invitee, said the 40-year conflict in Sri Lanka has given rise to disparities in all segments of society, in addition to causing the sad plight of the Tamils. [passage omitted]

A peace declaration is to be issued as part of this conference. It is being prepared under the supervision of Professor Dr. Balarajan.

Meanwhile, the speeches delivered at the conference will be compiled and sent to the prime minister.

As a prelude to this, a special message was prepared and sent to the prime minister on the concluding day of the conference. It reads as follows: This conference on the war victims would like to convey its greetings to the Sri Lankan prime minister. We are thankful to her for her prompt steps to end the war. We strongly believe that the prime minister will bring the gruesome war to an end. The reports gathered on the final day of the conference clearly indicate that as the ghastly fallout of the war, the health of the Sri Lankan people, especially the Tamils, has deteriorated substantially. We extend our support and encouragement to the prime minister to attend to the real problems of the Tamils, who are in a life and death struggle, and take meaningful steps to redress them. This conference has created strong hope that peace will be restored in the country. We would like to convey the same message to LTTE leader V. Prabhakaran.

More Tamil Groups To Support Chandrika in Elections

BK1210133494 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The politburo of the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], which was the first party to form a provincial council in the northeast, has resolved to support the People's Alliance candidate and prime minister, Chandrika Bandaranaike-Kumaratunga, at the forthcoming presidential elections. The spokesman for the EPRLF, L. Karteeswaran, told the SLBC [Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation], that the vision and courage of the People's Alliance [PA] candidate to solve the ethnic problem prompted his party to support her. He also said that his party has welcomed the efforts made by the PA to solve unemployment, eliminate poverty, corruption, and bribery.

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The Tamil political parties—the CWC [Ceylon Workers Congress], TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization], and EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students]—will take their decision on the 15th. The TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front] and PLOTE [People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam] have already expressed their support to the PA candidate.

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